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## X-Ray

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**From Brand: powerHouse Books : X-Ray** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised X-Ray:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. An excellent example of the power of cosmetics.....By KatieFrancois Nars' first collection of portraits is a fascinating "read"(there's only a few pages of text). The images, the fantasy, the creative process are what is important.Nars photographs his subjects simply, against a white background in most cases, although some have more extensive set work. The emphasis is on the face and of course, the makeup. The makeup is, in a word, stunning. Nars mixes wild and fanciful theatrical makeup with more subdued, practical makeup. Understandably, the wild makeup makes a deeper impression, but the range of the makeup highlights Nars' skill. My particular favorites are Shalom Harlow as Snow White(though I've seen a less graphic version of the portrait where's she's simply showing her garter, not her panties), Susan Sarandon looking stunning in wearable, pretty makeup, and the picture of a performance artist in full-body makeup with wild wig and face. There is full frontal nudity in this

book, but it is not portrayed in a sexual way. In fact, if anything, many of the subjects who are fully clothed are more sexual than the nude ones. It's hard to judge Nars' caliber as a photographer. Are the photos stunning, or is it simply what the pictures are of that makes them so intriguing? It's a fine line, but the pictures are playful, attractive, and well thought out. The subjects are famous people, many presented in a new and different way than we've seen them before. I definitely would advise people to check it out. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. What a way to enter the new millennium! By A Customer I discovered Francois Nars' book, X-Ray, two days ago, and I cannot stop thinking about it. There are really no in-between's with this book: you love it or you don't. In photography, I especially love good portraiture, and since, have liked portraits done in black-and-white. In X-Ray, Nars combines all my favorite loves: fashion, make-up, and personality-- in wonderful, vibrant COLOR!! A particular eye can appreciate the sequence of monographs, one by one: the full-face photo of Cindy Crawford au naturel! Every portrait is a surprise... And to think that Nars did the styling, make-up, and picture-taking himself makes this book all the more precious. This book can show us how big and small this world is, our differences and preferences and similarities. How we each have different sides to our personality, some more obvious than others. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Sensational, utterly intriguing By Jennifer Rubinetti (rubinettij@aol.com) Francois Nars' new book is superbly done. It is an exciting compilation of shocking and sedated images that bring the viewer into the depths of the mind of their maker. Nars introduces us to an alternate universe, where nothing is as it once was... the ordinary becomes extraordinary and the masks of what we have come to accept as fact are lifted. Such is the image of RuPaul, devoid of make up and glamour... in utterly stark simplicity and totally foreign to anything we have known him to be. This book is filled with famous faces and names, but each one has been changed to fit a different scope. The book itself is a conversation piece, a thing to be explored and revisited with the expectation of finding something new each time. It does not try to fool its viewers with flash and fancy, but rather acts as a tool to show us that things are not always as they seem.

World renowned makeup artist Francois Nars started photographing just two years ago. Deciding to art direct his own marketing campaign, Nars started casting and shooting models. The results were smashing: soon ads appeared in *W*, *Harpers Bazaar*, and *Allure*, featuring stunning full-frame images of strikingly elegant women, in very untraditional casting, showcasing his new, blazing hot NARS line of cosmetics. The famed designer decided to expand his vision: create an enormous art book with over two hundred richly stylized presentations of elegance, featuring his favorite personalities from the worlds of fashion, design, film-- even passersby on the street: people who personified to Nars the very notion of bold and audacious chic. Nars then set about travelling the globe and inviting each individual to sit for him, styling each portrait session according to the sitters' metier, personality, and elan. The results are simply stunning: 240 immense color portraits-- creations, really-- extracting the essence, as with an X ray, of the world's most remarkable individuals: Alexandra Von Furstenberg, Alexander McQueen, Amber Valletta, Angelica Huston, Anna Sui, Betsy Bloomingdale, Boy George, Bridget Fonda, Dave Navarro, Donatella Versace, Eartha Kitt, Francesco Clemente, Grace Jones, Hamish Bowles, Isabella Rossellini, Ivanka Trump, Jacqueline de Ribes, Juliette Lewis, Kate Moss, Lauren Hutton, Lauryn Hill, Marc Jacobs, Paloma Picasso, Penny Marshall, Polly Mellen, Princess Marie-Chantal of Greece, RuPaul Charles, Stephanie Seymour, Sylvia Miles, The Divine David, Tim Burton, Verushka, and many, many others. X-Ray is not fashion photography: it is a portraiture of style that is meta-fashion.

.com Famed makeup artist and photographer Francois Nars has assembled a book of his portraits in X-Ray. The one-page preface, written in French by fashion maven Andre Leon Talley, makes the point that this is not a text-heavy book. The photos are large-format, and each portrait occupies an entire page. Readers will find many familiar as well as unfamiliar faces here, all set in vivid Technicolor against a stark white background. Among the most recognizable are the photos of supermodel Shalom Harlow as a naughty Snow White. Nars's subjects are varied, but they are all legends in their own right, contributors to a stylistic vision, both of his world and their own. A few favorites of this reviewer are Ivanka Trump as a perched yellow canary, Kate Moss as Dorothy, Alexander McQueen wearing British flag contact lenses, and Amber Valletta as a 1960s airline stewardess. Then there are the more straightforward portraits-- involving less costuming-- of Chloe Sevigny, Sharon Gault, Grace Jones, Isabella Rossellini, Francesco Clemente, Tim Burton, Susan Sarandon, and a slew of models, designers, artists, and musicians young and old. The portraits are simple, yet Nars's sense of color and the up-front-and-center feeling of the images-- so many interesting faces, some staring at readers unmasked, others transformed into utter fantasy-- are phenomenally powerful. --Amra Brooks Francois Nars sends off the century with style. In X-RAY, the French makeup artist and photographer gives us 256 pages of captivating faces-- from socialites to supermodels to street punks-- that capture the essence of of-the-moment cool and natural glamour. His clean, bright style magnifies his subjects' sensuality, while his makeup artistry-- from a dab of lip gloss to full-fledged fantasy-- showcases his vision, even if, he says with a laugh, it doubles the amount of work for each portrait. --Paper Magazine His book, a lavishly illustrated, oversize monograph, features portraits of members of the fashion elite in cosmetic overdrive, from socialite to porn star, from hairstylist to hat designer to Hollywood royalty. The model Shalom Harlow appears as Snow White showing her panties. Sylvia Miles,

in a tuxedo, never looked better. -- New York Times  
About the Author  
François Narsis the founder and creative director  
of NARS Cosmetics, with over one hundred boutiques worldwide.