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The first monograph to be published on the work of Los Angeles-based twin brothers Nikolai and Simon Haas, *The Haas Brothers: Volume One* (Damiani) features color reproductions, process ephemera, and essays on their often anthropomorphic, eccentric, and curiously carnal oeuvre. Spanning one-of-a-kind fashion pieces, furniture, objets, and installations, works are presented by thematic sources of inspiration. One section, titled “Accretions,” outlines the biological process as a method of ceramic-making. In another, the brothers—who cite provocateur Vincent Gallo as a mentor—proclaim, “As humanists, we feel that shame is one of the most counterproductive emotional states for development.”

Authored by Lisa S. Roberts, a collector, designer, and the former host of the 2011 television series *My Design Life*, *Design Pop* (Rizzoli)

highlights 82 game-changing design projects produced since 2000. Categorized by areas of innovation—including “Materiality,” “Process,” and “Technology”—each object has entered the realm of popular culture in significant ways. Featured designs include Dyson’s bladeless Air Multiplier, Apple’s ubiquitous iPhone, and Marten Baas’s Clay furniture pieces. Lively descriptions and bold imagery—not to mention its eye-popping pink cover—keep the tome accessible to even the most uninitiated readers interested in contemporary design.

American Trucks (MB&F M.A.D. Gallery) collects images by Swiss photographer Ulysses Fréchélin, who set out to capture open-road culture of the U.S., as seen through the archetypal trucking rig. The resulting 100-page hard-cover book is an exercise in visual synecdoche: Through a series of large-format close-ups

showing various truck parts—a chrome radiator grill reflecting a crisp blue sky, an exhaust stack, and the rivets of a jumbo tire, to name a few—Fréchélin paints a telling portrait of the personalities behind each wheel, without ever showing a single face.

Since founding the practice in 2004, Los Angeles-based design collective Commune has embodied the freewheeling West Coast spirit in both name and design ethos, presented in the just-released monograph *Commune: Designed in California* (Abrams). Drawing influences ranging from traditional Spanish architecture, to ’60s counterculture style, to the fluid indoor/outdoor lifestyle afforded year-round by the unmatched splendor of the Pacific landscape, the firm’s warm interiors, objects, and graphic patterns have become a defining voice for contemporary California design.