



michael with vines 1997 | JAMES HOUSTON

LIKE MANY ARTISTS, James Houston's career trajectory meandered somewhat before photography became his calling.

After dropping out of art school, he won a scholarship with an advertising agency. Within six months he became an art director but it wasn't quite what he wanted. Working as a model took him on assignment to Japan where he picked up an old Nikon and began photographing friends. Discovering his natural aptitude, he developed his hobby into a career back in Australia and began shooting for fashion magazines. His first book, *RAW* is a compilation of Houston nudes shot over the last five years around the world.

TEXT **andrew creagh**

RAW appeal

Now one of Australia's most highly regarded photographers, Houston's bread-and-butter is in fashion but nudes are still a hobby. "Some people collect stamps or go out to the garden. I shoot people naked. It's something I enjoy and it relates to my sculpture work. It's my perception of beauty."

As an ex-model, would he ever consider a self portrait? "No. I wouldn't shoot me now. I mean, I'm not my type."

RAW, released nationally in October, is proudly sponsored by Hugo Boss and published by Craftsman House. The *RAW* exhibition will be held at the Byron Mapp Gallery, Sydney from October 8 to November 3; the Photography Gallery Of Western Australia, Perth from November 8 to 29; and George Gallery, Melbourne from January 29 to February 15, 1998.