

DIVA

DIVA

Edited by Kate Bailey

NEW: June

£30 HB

ISBN 9781838510350

290 × 230 mm, 224 pp

120 illustrations

BIC: AVH / APB

Thema: AVP / ATC / JBCC1

Category: Music/Performance/Design

Published to accompany the V&A's exhibition
24 June 2023 – 7 April 2024

Originating from the Latin for goddess, our concept of what a 'diva' might be – or should be – has evolved in richness and complexity. Delving into the personas of performers from Sarah Bernhardt to Rihanna, this book looks at what it has meant to be a diva, and what unites and defines these unique artists. Opening with 19th-century opera stars and 20th-century silent-screen sirens, it then focuses on different aspects of divadom: from Hollywood icons such as Elizabeth Taylor and Bette Davis cultivating their image to the activism of artists such as Billie Holiday and Miriam Makeba; from the acumen shown by Dolly Parton and Beyonce to the development of radical new musical identities by Madonna, Missy Elliot and Lady Gaga; from new ways of performing gender and sexuality by Tina Turner, Freddie Mercury and Grace Jones to the tensions between public and private experienced by the likes of Amy Winehouse and Liza Minnelli.

Kate Bailey is Senior Curator, Theatre and Performance at the V&A.

