

Nobuyoshi Araki

*Painting Flower and Diaries*

November 17, 2005 – January 14, 2006

October 20, 2005, New York – A group of rarely seen photographs by Japanese photographer Nobuyoshi Araki will be on view at Anton Kern Gallery; in particular a body of work entitled *Painting Flower*, as well as *101 Images Dedicated to Robert Frank* and other works selected from the *Diaries*. The exhibition opens November 17 and will continue through January 14, 2006.



Araki's *Painting Flower* series of 2004 is devoted to close-ups of lilies, orchids and other waxy flowers, which he has first daubed in glowing paint. *101 Images Dedicated to Robert Frank* of 1992-93 gives a respectful nod to the equally rebellious Swiss-American photographer. The exhibition is complete with images culled from recent *Diaries* and a group of images depicting bound women, autoerotic transgressions that transcends confinement, discipline, hierarchy and ritual compression.

Araki's oeuvre is an amalgam of the public and private. In it, the formal and informal culminate, spontaneity and artful planning merge, naturalness and artifice overlap. After working nine years for the advertising company *Dentsu*, Araki became a freelance photographer in 1972. After his marriage to Yoko Aoki, he published a book of pictures of his wife taken during their honeymoon entitled *Sentimental Journey*, which defined the template for Araki's distinct diaristic take on photography. Araki blends everyday-life experiences and casual, unconstrained sexuality with a highly stylized, almost ceremonial eroticism.

With a career that now spans more than four decades, Araki's output is vast. He has almost 300 books to his name, and his work has been exhibited in solo shows at Barbican Art Gallery in London (2005), the Centre National de la Photographie in Paris (2000), the Stedleijk Museum in Gent, Belgium (2000), the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo (1999), Deichtorhallen in Hamburg, Germany (1998), Hara Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo (1997), Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris (1995), Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, Germany (1995). His best-known works include the collection titled *Araki Nobuyoshi's Imitation Diary*, and *Tokyo Story*. Araki's life and work were the subject of Travis Klose's 2005 documentary film *Arakimentari*.

The exhibition opens on Thursday, November 17 and will run through January 14, 2006. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm. For further information and images, please contact Christoph Gerozissis or Michael Clifton at (t) 212.367.9663, (f) 212.367.8135 or email: [info@antonkerngallery.com](mailto:info@antonkerngallery.com).

**Upcoming exhibition: Bendix Harms (January 19 – February 25, 2006)**

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