



See stunning images by Araki, Japan's master of erotic photography

Contemporary artist Nobuyoshi Araki's show at Anton Kern Gallery examines eroticism within the context of life and death

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Photographer Nobuyoshi Araki—who usually goes by his last name only—is one of Japan's most prolific contemporary artists, and though his work has often tread a fine line between erotic and pornographic, his career has been celebrated at home and abroad. Young nubile, Japanese women, in provocative full-frontal poses that sometimes include bondage, are a frequent subject, but there's no doubting the artistry and refined eye behind Araki's photographs. His current show at Chelsea's Anton Kern Gallery (up through August 7) is titled "Eros Diary," but it's actually a bit lighter on the explicit. Instead, it offers a metaphorical and meditative take, examining eroticism within the context of life and death—a view that makes perfect sense, given that Araki, now 75, has spent the last year battling prostate cancer. The photos, which include still lifes and other scenes, are gorgeous as usual; they're a reminder that whatever else it may be, sex is a regenerative act.