

nobuyoshi araki

qARADISE

sep 2 – nov 30, 2016

sonora 128

av. sonora 128, col. condesa
mexico city

⌘

araki

sep 2 – oct 15, 2016

cantina ardalio

josé maría vigil 57
col. escandón, 11800
mexico city

[#sonoral28](#)

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kurimanzutto is pleased to announce the participation of renowned **Japanese photographer Nobuyoshi Araki** in two simultaneous projects within Mexico City, both of which will take place **outside the gallery**: a solo presentation in **Cantina Ardalio**, and the **third edition of Sonora 128**, a billboard exhibition space.

Araki has long been recognized as a master of photography, whose frank love affair with the beauty of life exhibits itself in the idea that, between a man and a woman is a camera. This has materialized itself through the format of his l-novels, diaristic photobooks exploring Araki's autoerotic self-realization, capturing a private life filled with sex, love, lust, joy, and death. Araki's private relations as public revelations, aka Arakism, have riveted viewers since his cult classic book, *Sentimental Journey* (1971), which rocked the photographic community at large with its erotic, candid record of Araki's wife Yoko during their honeymoon. Since that time, through countless exhibitions and publications, Araki has tirelessly experimented with the boundaries of photographic form, painting, writing, scratching or collaging his images, and even smashing his camera lens in response to a stroke that recently left him blinded in one eye. A pioneer of the link between the l & eye, where photography is the observation of life and death embraced in life, or life embraced in death, Araki has never stopped seeking the edge of his own interest. This has led him to not only exhibit his images in galleries and museums worldwide, but also train stations, bars, and even ramen shops. For Araki, exhibitions are a social event, similar to parades or celebrations.

During September 2016, Cantina Ardalio – a traditional locals-only bar in the Escandón neighbourhood – will continue Araki's off-site explorations by presenting a selection of photographic proofs chosen by the artist himself. Araki's frank love affair with the beauty of life finds a kindred home against the murky mirrors of this low-key, all-inclusive cantina. Images of eros and thanatos, color nudes, food and blossoming flowers will be plastered on the Ardalio's mirrored walls, directly at the eye level of its patrons. Among these are black and white printer's proofs from his book, *Tokyo in Autumn* (1984), along with color nudes and flowers. Also on view, while ordering a drink from the bartender, atop the long wooden bar, will be *Kekkai*, Araki's set of earthly delights in 128 erotic Polaroid prints, a deck of carnal cards referencing the traditional Japanese game of karuta, which can be taken by visitors and patrons alike.

For Sonora 128, Araki will debut a new work on 6 x 7 color positive film, and centered on the theme of paradise. This image forms part of a larger, ongoing series, *qARADISE*, depicting fantastical orgies of tropical vegetation, inhabited

by personal objects, such as dolls, monsters and plastic toys. Composed on black backgrounds to emphasize their vivid colors, this series brims with Araki's classic humor amongst ecstasy and death, while carrying within it the seeds of the next world. Araki often considers his subjects as screens for imagined landscapes, and in this unique case, a screen now projected into the sky. This takes on double, special significance as Araki has often concentrated on shooting images of the sky, while the subject of his work shifts to the other world, or ARA-DISE. Corroborating this theme are several previous series, such as, *A's Paradise* (1998), *It was Once a Paradise* (2011), *Monochrome Paradise* (2015) and *A Desktop Paradise* (2016). As Araki comments, "all photography belongs in the next world. I mean, the next world is paradise. When I look through the camera now, every place is paradise."

kurimanzutto would like to extend a special thanks to all of those involved in bringing this project to fruition, especially **Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo.**

Nobuyoshi Araki (Tokyo, 1940) is a Tokyo-based photographer. Araki completed his studies at Chiba University's Department of Photography, Painting and Engineering with a focus on the study of film and photography. His photographic project *Satchin* earned him the prestigious Taiyo Award in 1964, shortly after he had joined the advertising agency Dentsu, where he worked until 1972. At Dentsu he met his wife Yoko, to whom he paid homage in *Sentimental Journey*, a photographic record of their honeymoon published in 1971. Eros and thanatos (sex and death) has been a central theme in Araki's work; an abiding fascination with female genitalia and women's bodies in Japanese bondage, flowers, food, his cat, faces and Tokyo street scenes.

Previous solo exhibitions include, *Araki, Musée National des Arts Asiatiques Guimet (Paris, 2016)* *Ōjō Shashū: Photography for the Afterlife - Faces, Skyscapes, Roards*, *Toyota Municipal Museum of Art (2014)* *Nobuyoshi Araki Photobook Exhibition: Arākī*, Izu Photo Museum (Shizuoka, 2012), *NOBUYOSHI ARAKI: Self, Life, Death*, The Barbican Art Gallery (London, 2005), *Hana-Jinsei*, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography (2003), *Tokyo Still Life*, *Ikon Gallery* (Birmingham, 2001), *Nobuyoshi Araki*, Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst (Gent, 2000), *ARAKI Nobuyoshi Sentimental Photography, Sentimental Life*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo (1999), *Tokyo Comedy*, Wiener Secession (Vienna, 1997), *Journal intime*, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain (Paris, 1995), *Akt-Tokyo: Nobuyoshi Araki 1971-1991*, Forum Stadtpark (Graz, 1992). Araki was a recipient of the Austrian Decoration of Honor for Science and Arts (Austrian Embassy, 2008) and the 54th Mainichi Art Award (2012).

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