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Nobuyoshi Araki

Impossible Love - Vintage Photographs

Edited by Felix Hoffmann

Main description

A young woman with her legs spread wide; buttoned-up dressed workers on a city street. Contrasting photos like these of intensely private scenes, and snapshots of nameless passers-by are Nobuyoshi Araki's early commentary on the heterogeneity of Japanese society, calling the moral responsibility of its members into question. This book combines Araki's Tokyo series from his early works with a selection of his recent Polaroid collages and newly developed slide shows—all of them exploring the contradictions between anonymity and intimacy, the public and private sphere, reality and dream.

The legendary Araki is one of the most influential and widely discussed artists today, one who deals with nakedness, sexuality and the body in a radical and realistic way. Through an extreme emotional and physical closeness with his subjects, he becomes not only part of their lives but plays a central role in his own photos, thus transcending voyeurism. Together with Nan Goldin, Larry Clark and Boris Mikhailov, Araki is considered one of the pioneers of intimate subjective photography.

Co-published with C/O Berlin

Biography

Born in Tokyo in 1940, Nobuyoshi Araki worked in advertising after completing his studies in photography and film at Chiba University in Tokyo; he devoted himself exclusively to photography from the mid-1960s. Araki's oeuvre spans erotic portraits of women, artificial still lifes, images of plants, documentary-style depictions of everyday life, architectural photography, as well as diaristic photos of himself and his deceased wife Yoko. He has published around 400 books, shown in many international exhibitions, and his work is part of important collections worldwide. Araki lives and works in Tokyo.

Bibliography

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