

kamel mennour

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NOBUYOSHI ARAKI CARTE BLANCHE

1 March - 14 April 2007

Kamel Mennour is pleased to present Nobuyoshi Araki's « Carte Blanche » the first in a series of four artists to be given carte blanche by the gallery to create an exhibition before moving to our new premises this September.

For the occasion, Araki is showing, for the first time in France, a light box bringing together around thousand colour slides, a compilation of his many different themes. He is also presenting an installation of about forty Polaroids, as well as some more recent photographs.

Nobuyoshi Araki was born in 1940 in a working-class area of Tokyo. At the age of 12, he received a "baby pearl" camera from his father, an amateur photographer, with which took his first snapshots.

He worked as a cameraman for 10 years with the Dentsu agency, before deciding to take his work in a more personal direction at the beginning of the 1970s. In 1971, he married Yoko Aoki and published "A sentimental journey", a compilation of photographs taken during his honeymoon.

Fascinated by the fundamental and inextricable triangle of sex, life, and death (it is to him we owe the words "I was no sooner out of my mother's womb than I turned around and photographed her vagina"), Araki is tireless as a photographer, obsessed by women, often bound, and flowers, captured in the all the intimacy of their coloured folds.

But we also find in Araki's prolific and abundant work representations of urban landscapes, as well as male, group, and feline portraits.

"I want to tie up reality, because I can't tie up anything else. Not the heart of Yoko, the woman I love, nor that of anyone else. You can't tie up the soul. It's untouchable. And it's because the soul is untouchable that I want to tie up the visible; to take possession of it for myself.

"Today, there are too many robots, and fewer voices which come from the flesh. What I want to photograph is disappearing. When the world is in bad shape, the same is true for photographs. They become uninteresting. This is my epitaph for the end of the world."

Nobuyoshi Araki « Carte Blanche » is on show at galerie kamel mennour, Tuesdays to Saturdays, 11am to 7pm.

For further information, please contact Marie-Sophie Eiché, Jessy Mansuy-Leydier, or Emma-Charlotte Gobry-Laurencin.