**Books on Books #15** 

Nobuyoshi Araki: The Banquet



**Nobuyoshi Araki's** *The Banquet* is a tribute to his late wife Yoko through a 'photo-diary' of the food they shared together in the last months of her life. Resembling brightly colored commercial food pictures made with a ring flash and a macro lens, and contrasted with bleak black-and-white images he photographed at home after doctors told Araki that his wife had only a month left to live, *Books on Books #15* presents Araki's deeply personal diary of loss in its entirety along with an essay by Ivan Vartanian called *Dining – A Lover's Tryst*.

Nobuyoshi Araki was born in Tokyo in 1940. Given a camera by his father at the age of twelve, Araki has been taking pictures ever since. He studied photography and film at Chiba University and went into commercial photography soon after graduating. In 1970 he created his famous *Xeroxed Photo Albums*, which he produced in limited editions and sent to friends, art critics, and people selected randomly from the telephone book. Over the years, his bold, unabashed photographs of his private life have been the object of a great deal of controversy and censorship (especially in his native Japan), a fact that has not fazed the artist nor diminished his influence. To date, Araki has published over 400 books of his work.

Essayist Ivan Vartanian is an author based in Tokyo, Japan. He produces, edits, and publishes limited editions, monographs, and experimental book works under the imprint Goliga (www.goliga.com). Vartanian's publications include *Japanese Photobooks of the 1960s and 70s*, co-authored with Ryuichi Kaneko (Aperture, 2009), *Setting Sun: Writings by Japanese Photographers* (Aperture, 2005), and *ACCIDENT* (Goliga, 2011), a photobook by Daido Moriyama.

# Notes to editors:

• Books on Books #15: Nobuyoshi Araki – The Banquet

• Essays by Nobuyoshi Araki, Ivan Vartanian, Jeffrey Ladd

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The Errata Editions *Books on Books* series is an on-going publishing project dedicated to making rare and out-of-print photography books accessible to students and photobook enthusiasts. Each in this series presents the entire content, page for page, of an original master bookwork which, up until now, has been too rare or prohibitively expensive for most to experience. Through a mix of classic and contemporary titles, this series spans the breadth of photographic practice as it has appeared on the printed page and allows further study into the creation and meanings of these great works of art.

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