



**Nobuyoshi Araki**

**MONSTRIOUS PARADISE**

The origin of the project goes back to 1999. The Dutch artist Rene Rietmeyer met with Araki at the opening of his exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo. While being introduced, Araki turned to the Japanese girl that was with Rene and whispered in her ear some Japanese words. The girl understood and gave Araki one. Then Araki signed one of his photos and wrote the text of those words just spoken on it. "I want to make my figure smaller". That sentence stuck.

Years later Rene Rietmeyer together with his new team Sarah Gold and Yoko Ono arranged an exhibition and collaboration of projects with artists such as Chikako, Hermann Nitsch, Lawrence Weiner and Yoko Ono. However, they always kept thinking of the possibility to create an art project together with Araki.

Araki: the photographer focuses for his depiction of Japanese girls which are not us, sometimes even funny from the way, some looking straight into the camera, vulnerable and happy, others looking away, all the gestures captured and described in an evocative way.

Araki has lived his entire life in Japan and there he has been accumulating the knowledge of his subjects from being always Japanese. There have been only two exceptions for him: European women. Sarah and Yoko Ono. Araki now we would come into contact. Dutch girls to become subjects for his camera – whatever Araki would come up with, we would do it.

Japan is strange and different at any time, sometimes even in the air as we walk one way towards the mountainside, it was August 2019, in the middle of the heat and humidity of Bangkok there was a visit, a

like sat back from the pavement, we walked into the unknown, the Rouge trials have up to his name.

Shortly after, Araki with a small camera in his hand arrived as well. An eight feet brought two little tiny tanks hanging for weight like the top-mounted. They were a great success. Araki started playing with them straight away. However successful the girls, our choice scattered soon. It seemed not possible to get Araki to photograph us. When on the wrong side, study not to make it too soft?

Araki wanted to make a project with us. His, the two Dutch girls will be represented by the two girls. They will have adventures which Araki will document. Monstrous Paradise and team.

Araki is obviously, all of what we could be using together that will result in an interesting series of photos.

In April 2019 we finally received 200 images, mostly by Nobuyoshi Araki. We understood why he had needed so long, each image showed a world of strange things, thoughts, ideas, a way of presenting things as typically Araki, we had not expected that quality, the finished work for the project, but his work was seriously, we could not have hoped for more.



**PERSONAL STRUCTURES 2019**  
**Identities (Art Biennial Venice 2019)** **£35.00**

This publication accompanies the exhibition Personal Structures in the context of the 57th Biennale di Venezia (11 May – 24 November 2019, Venice, Italy).

Initiated in 2002 by the Dutch artist Rene Rietmeyer, the project Personal Structures has exhibited extensively and has been several times an official part of the Venice Biennale.

Organised by the European Cultural Centre, this exhibition presents around 200 artists from more than 40 countries. A combination of established artists and others whose oeuvre is less known. However, what they have in common is a dedication to the concepts time, space and existence.

Featured artists are Yoko Ono, Hermann Nitsch, Sarah Gold, Arnulf Rainer, Valie Export, Nobuyoshi Araki, and many others.

Accompanies the exhibition Personal Structures which is organized by the European Cultural Centre in Venice, Italy in 2019.

Product Details	
Artist(s)	Nobuyoshi Araki, Valie Export, Sarah Gold, Hermann Nitsch, Yoko Ono, Arnulf Rainer
Editor(s)	European Cultural Centre
Publisher	European Cultural Centre Publishing
ISBN	9789082943450
Format	hardback
Pages	608
Illustrations	240 colour
Dimensions	220mm x 240mm
Weight	2610
Publication Date: Sep 2019	