

“My wife Yoko first brought Chiro home from Kasukabe when she was just a four month old kitten.”

-- Nobuyoshi Araki, *Itoshi No Chiro (Chiro, My Love)*, 1990

Chiro, who for the past 22 years posed for her beloved owner and photographer Araki, passed away on March 2, 2010. In human years, she lived to be about 105 years old. “No woman has showed as much love for me as Chiro did,” says Araki of his cat, who was the apple of his eye, always there to support him especially after his wife Yoko sadly passed away before her time. Today, 20 years after the death of Yoko, Araki is once again forced to deal with the painful hardship of losing a loved one. Through his photographs, he narrates a story of how “life is a journey” composed of the everyday moments that flow between life and death.

This exhibition features photographs taken by Araki in Chiro’s final months, depicting Chiro in a range of poses- walking around the balcony, lying on the bed, staring intently at the camera. Although Chiro is captured through the lens of Araki’s camera, it is as though we can see her right in front of our eyes and hear her meowing softly, yearning for her owner’s attention or crying out her loneliness. Chiro’s vivid expressions and the landscapes in Araki’s photographs are weaved together to form a love story that gently conveys Araki’s deep affection for Chiro. Images of the sky, flowers and other scenes taken after Chiro’s death reverberate a sentimental melody that is touching to the heart.

*(This document was automatically generated by Contemporary Art Library.)*