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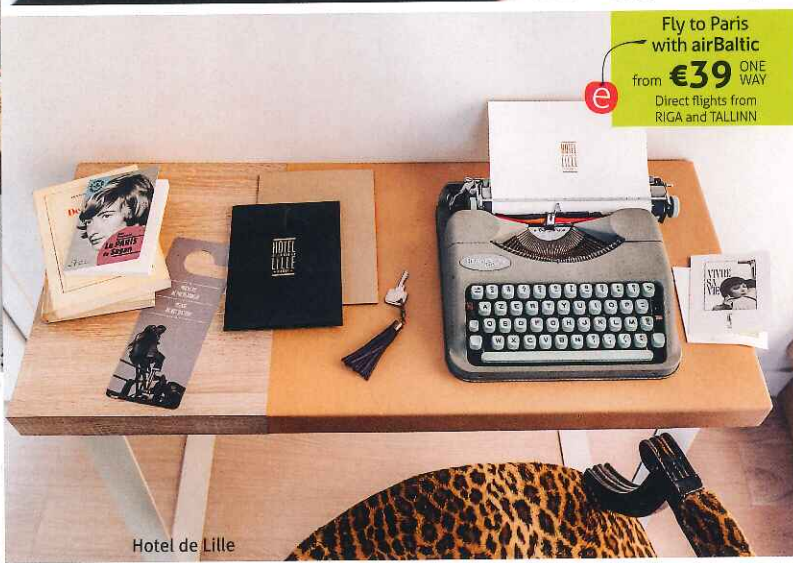
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Voyage à Tokyo (Tokyo Story), Nobuyoshi Araki, 1989

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Publicity photos

Paris

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Hotel de Lille

Among the cultural offerings in the City of Light this summer is an exhibition for adults only, and another showing that should thrill girls of any age. The first is dedicated to the daringly sensuous photographs of Nobuyoshi Araki. Although the Japanese photographer's career has already spanned 51 years – a period during which Western society has cast aside almost every taboo – he is still considered to be one of the most radical contemporary photographers. Not only do curators warn visitors that Araki's works may be inappropriate for children, pregnant women are also asked to consider whether this is something that they want to see.

In the early 1980s – the boom years of the Tokyo sex industry – Araki explored the city's red-light district, immortalising the goings-on in the nightclubs and sex shops. The project came to an end in 1985, when changes in Japan's laws put an end to the industry's heyday. Sexuality and women's bodies haven't vanished from Araki's photographs, though. They continue to serve as expressions of romantic feeling and as explorations of the dark side of urban life. The **Nobuyoshi Araki retrospective** at the *Musée Guimet* (6, place d'Iéna; guimet.fr – until September 5) offers more than 400 Araki photos that cover the entire spectrum of his favourite themes: flowers, photography as autobiography, eroticism, desire and death.

Les Arts Décoratifs, meanwhile, is invoking the unsurpassed icon of both the toy and fashion industries: the **Barbie doll** (107, rue de Rivoli; lesartsdecoratifs.fr – until September 18). Barbie has reached a respectable age – she turned 57 this year, having been born in the workshops of the American toy manufacturer *Mattel* in 1959, and her wardrobe has become quite extensive over the years. The exhibition has at least 700 dolls on display and presents some of Barbie's most striking outfits. Nearly every great fashion house has had a hand in dressing her, including *Thierry Mugler*, *Jean-Paul Gaultier*, *Chanel*, *Maison Martin Margiela*, *Carven* and *Yves Saint Laurent*. One section of the show is devoted to modelling, since that is Barbie's favourite activity – her Instagram account has more than 1.3 million followers.

Paris now has a new hotel that's perfect for a trip focused on culture – the **Hôtel de Lille** (40, rue de Lille; hoteldelille.com). It's located in Saint-Germain-des-Près, a neighbourhood renowned for its intellectual history. Françoise Sagan once lived at number 73 on the same street, and Serge Gainsbourg enjoyed frequenting *Bistro de Paris* at number 33. It's said that he always sat at the same table – number 46, directly across from the bar. Each of the hotel's 15 rooms is dedicated to a luminary associated with Saint-Germain-des-Près, from François Truffaut, Françoise Sagan, Juliette Gréco and Marguerite Duras to Henry Miller and Ernest Hemingway. You'll find Sagan's original typewriter in her room, while Hemingway's room is as blue as the sea he so loved.



Hotel de Lille



© Mattel

Barbie air stewardess, 1961

