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JOSEF BREITENBACH

Breitenbach (1896-1984) was an avant-garde photographer who had a Surrealist's eye for visual pastiche but also a decidedly classical bent. (Think of him as photography's de Chirico.) The work that sealed his cult reputation was made in the thirties and forties, and these vintage prints from that period are superb. His subjects may be fairly routine, but his treatment of the nude, the portrait bust, and the formal landscape often involves solarization, montage, and the startlingly unnaturalistic use of color. Slipping a dusty-rose urn, an incandescent-peach female nude, and a rust-colored diagram of the human nervous system into black-and-white pictures, Breitenbach gives realism a thrilling jolt. Through Nov. 22. (Gitterman, 170 E. 75th St. 212-734-0868.)

- Vince Aletti