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The Herald Magazine  
200 Renfield Street, Glasgow, G2 3QB  
Telephone 0141 302 7000  
Email [maoazine@theherald.co.uk](mailto:maoazine@theherald.co.uk)  
Visit [heraldscotland.com](http://heraldscotland.com)  
Twitter @heraldmagazine  
Editor Garry Scott  
Production editor Sean Guthrie  
Picture editor Craig Boyd Alexander  
Pictures Calum McKenzie  
Fashion editor Eva Arrighi  
Cover Kirsty Anderson



Ageing Gracefully by Karsten Thormaehlen is published by Chronicle Books, priced £19.99

## Portfolio **TONAKI TSURU** KARSTEN THORMAEHLEN

Tonaki Tsuru was born on October 1, 1913, in Nanjo, Japan. A widow for more than 50 years, she lives on Okinawa, one of a group of islands in the East China Sea that is reputed for having the most centenarians. She raised four children and worked in a fabric factory. She loves growing sweet potatoes and Okinawan folk music. She is just one of the 52 subjects in German photographer Karsten Thormaehlen's new book Ageing Gracefully. "My ultimate

passion is photographing old people," he writes in the introduction. "Very old people."

We associate beauty with youth. But maybe that's because we aren't looking hard enough. Thormaehlen's work, the photographer says, is itself a search for beauty, "perhaps the purest kind – a beauty that knows no expiration date".

And so his images are full of lines and also full of life.