

Aki Sasamoto

By: Vee Riley

Born in 1980 in Kanagawa, Japan, Sasamoto now lives in New York. She works in installation and presentation. She has collaborated with visual artists, musicians, choreographers, dancers, and even mathematicians and scholars. Her work has been displayed in theaters, galleries, and public spaces located in New York. Works from her solo shows include: “Delicate Cycle” Sculpture, *Food Rental* High Line at the Rail Yards, and *Sunny in the Furnace* the Kitchen, New York (2014). Her work is very new and different to me. I myself have never seen something like this before and this was not what I was expecting to see. When I think artist, I only thought of painting, drawing, and photography, never this. I think that what Sasamoto does is incredible and I could not take my eyes off of it. My favorite work of hers would have to be *Sunny In the Furnace*. I watched multiple little clips from the performance until I had found the full show on Youtube. The whole performance is around one hour. I have watched it 3 times now and I plan on watching it again. It was like watching a very artsy PSA form of STOMP. There were stilts mixed with projector screens as well that I liked. While reading more about her and her pieces she has done I had also come across a really nice quote from her:

“Every project has this ? time, while I make visits to strange sites and people that may or may not have much to do with still unsettled themes, and while I purchase multiple kinds of fabrics and hardware to test whether I can even make anything with those. Usually this time and purchases are not listed under my production budget, but it certainly is the cost of my studio practice. In fact this nonsense state of scattered activities is actually the core of my creative process. So I bite my tongue and just grip my credit card firmly. This happens every time. When I received the phone call from the Foundation, I was in the brainstorming phase for a solo exhibition at The Kitchen... The urge to meet perfect materials is at odds with trying not to worry about spending. My head was almost turning into a pressure cooker of a belief system, convincing myself to purchase an industrial sewing machine. Then I got your phone call, and I immediately drove to the person from Craigslist. The immediate affect of the award was this burst of energy and confidence in bumping up the production level to my liking. ”

- Aki Sasamoto, December 11th, 2017

From this quote I understand what she is talking about. When it comes to the brainstorming process and purchasing the materials, that is all I can think about sometimes and I see myself getting stuck and or panicking about what is going to work and what is not going to work. I

learned that sometimes you just have to take a deep breath and push forward no matter what happens, it is bound to turn out ok in the end.







