

BORTOLAMI

Aki Sasamoto

Past in a future tense

1 March – 20 April 2019

Opening Friday, March 1 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Bortolami is pleased to present *Past in a future tense*, a solo presentation of a video installation and new sculptures by Aki Sasamoto.

In Sasamoto's new sculptural installation, *Past in a future tense*, the artist has retrofitted the first viewing room with a long oaken bar and cocktail tables. HVAC tubes hang from the ceiling and walls, pushing air through enlarged whiskey bottles. Air flows into blown glass domes, causing whiskey glasses to spin continuously.

In the second viewing room, Sasamoto screens *Do Nut Diagram*, 2018. Created as a commission for Triple Canopy, and entirely improvised, the backdrop of the video is an idyllic scene of a forest, disrupted by a single object: a donut. An ant begins to explore the donut, signaling the existence of three pieces of tempered glass that separate the viewer from both the background and the donut itself. Sasamoto then draws two circles on the glass with markers, creating a Venn diagram with the donut at its center. The ensuing performance, in which the artist smears donut grease on the glass and subsequently cleans it off, ends with the shattering of the tempered glass, leaving no barriers between the viewer and the forest.

The sculptures in *Past in a future tense* were conceived in reaction to *Do Nut Diagram*. Inspired by the circles that she drew on the glass in the video, Sasamoto began to think about glass in a circular way, which led to the production of the glass domes. The motion of the cups spinning came to fruition during a time when the artist was not drinking and would absentmindedly fumble with empty cups in a repetitive, redundant way.

Aki Sasamoto (b. 1980, Kanagawa, Japan), is a New York-based artist, who works in performance, sculpture, dance, and more. Sasamoto has had solo exhibitions and performances at SculptureCenter, Long Island City; Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson; The Kitchen, New York. Her work has also been shown at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT; The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and MoMA PS1, Long Island City.