

Thiis and that: *There are two ways of being for me. One is thiis world (the everyday, banal relationships, and talking) and the other is that world (productions, improvisation, and introspective thinking).*

Aki Sasamoto finds objects, alters them, arranges them, and brings them to life by performing and telling stories with them. Along the way, she encounters feedback, and her improvisations respond to sounds, objects, and moving bodies. Little by little, she pushes away from *this* world and faces the void of *thaat* world.

For Aki, *thaat* world creates a space in which mutual transformations occur between the artist and her objects. As part human and part nonhuman, these hybrid forms exceed their circumscribed roles and exert new types of agency. Things we take for granted—grapefruits, chairs, and knives—come together with Aki’s own decisive gestures to generate stories that seem personal at first, but soon establish open possibilities of access, relation, and reflection. Forms don’t follow their functions, and subjects become difficult to distinguish from objects.

For her most recent project, *E_O*, Aki brings together childhood nightmares and her newfound fascination for boxing. Through training with boxers, she learned that boxing involves seeing and listening rather than fighting, and *E_O* attempts to establish an inherent geometry between eyesight, the Enneagram, muscles, and death. She does so by inhabiting altar-like structures made of found pipe, towels, plastic bags and paper, and uses pre-recorded sounds, goggles and lemons to evoke *thaat* world between belief and perception.

Aki Sasamoto's performative and interactive lecture about *E_O* takes place on Saturday, December 3rd, 2011. This event is organized by Chris Gartrell and Michael Rudokas.