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**Media Contacts:**

Allison Rodman, Japan Society, 914-715-9794  
[arodman@japansociety.org](mailto:arodman@japansociety.org)

Asako Sugiyama, Japan Society, 212-715-1249  
[asugiyama@japansociety.org](mailto:asugiyama@japansociety.org)

Julia Guiheen, Brunswick Arts, 646-266-9272  
[jguiheen@brunswickgroup.com](mailto:jguiheen@brunswickgroup.com)

**JAPAN SOCIETY PRESENTS *FROM HERE TO THERE***  
**Online Exhibition and Programming Showcases Creation of New Works By Three**  
**Emerging Artists**

**September 24, 2020 – January 21, 2021**

**Exhibition website goes live September 24, 2020 at 10 am EST**



Left to Right: Nobutaka Aozaki, *Grocery Portraits #3 (Dekalb Ave & Wyckoff Ave, Ridgewood, Queens, NY)*, 2019. Photography by Tom Starkweather  
Image courtesy of Ulterior Gallery, New York; Hanako Murakami, *Imaginary Landscapes Untitled (Heliobrom #7)*, 2020. Image courtesy of the artist;  
Aki Sasamoto, *Phase Transition*, January 2020, Danspace Project, NYC. Photography by Ian Douglas

**NEW YORK, September 10, 2020—** *From Here to There* is Japan Society's first online, visual arts commissioned project initiated as a testing ground for artistic practice, dialogue, and production. Within the extraordinary context of 2020, this dynamic platform reflects upon the current moment and responds to our collective resilience through artistic expression, presenting a new series of disciplinary intersections and encounters that includes performance, drawing, photography, and installation.

Informed by the present cultural conditions, *From Here to There* introduces new online commissions by three contemporary artists, **Nobutaka Aozaki** (New York), **Hanako Murakami** (Paris), and **Aki Sasamoto** (New York), whose projects reckon with time, place, and context. Unfolding over the exhibition's run of four months, each project takes its own direction and interpretation through its respective medium, and attempts to collapse the distinctions particularly resonant today: isolation/community; physical/digital; illusions of control/agency. An evolving [exhibition website](#) consisting of videos, photographs, texts, ephemera, and more provides living documentation for each in-progress project, with monthly website updates accumulating new materials. A bi-weekly series of live programs includes performances, talks, and demonstrations. The exhibition website and related programming creates new and enhanced ways of engaging with art, allowing access to moments that are usually left behind-the-scenes.

*“From Here to There* examines the role of an institution as an intermediary between the makers and viewers of art beyond physical and temporal distances. This series is an attempt to bridge physical sites

of artistic production and display with online sites to explore creative processes and to cultivate a dialogue around the visual arts today,” says Yukie Kamiya, Director of Japan Society Gallery.

For his contribution, **Nobutaka Aozaki** constructs a biographic snapshot of Broadway — the thoroughfare that stretches from the Financial District in the south to the northern tip of Manhattan and which has origins as an important Native American trail. The artist meticulously records the name of every ground-floor retail business along Broadway, which forms a conceptual written portrait of the city affected by the months-long shutdown. Expanded upon the artist’s past project ***From Here to There*** (2012–), a map of New York City emerges from a collage of hand drawings by various pedestrians who provided directions to the artist. Aozaki’s practice captures the diversity of the city with found ephemera such as shopping lists and notes retrieved from the sidewalk along Broadway. His works visualize and shed light on the everyday life of anonymous citizens.

**Hanako Murakami** presents a conceptual project that investigates the nature of memory: its surfaces, textures, and materiality. In ***Imaginary Landscapes*** (2020–), Murakami exposes previously unused vintage film, photographic plates and paper through what the artist calls an “inner voyage” that simultaneously merges and reveals traces of time, place, and context. Her ethereal photographs depict not one precise moment with a captured image, but an accumulation of time and experiences. A centerpiece of her commission will be the development of new, experimental short films created from a 1940s reel originally intended to capture wartime images.

**Aki Sasamoto** operates at the intersection of performance and installation, exploring mundane actions and transforming them into artistic events. She works across various media, finding material inspiration in response to the conditions of her site and surroundings. For this commission, Sasamoto invites collaboration with other creators in response to this moment of isolation, working with students from Yale School of Art to present a live performance series. Taking improvisation as a central theme, the series consists of three individual but interrelated performances.

***From Here to There*** is curated by Yukie Kamiya, Gallery Director, and Tiffany Lambert, Assistant Curator, and is organized by Japan Society.

## **PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE**

### **Opening: Artists’ Presentations & Discussion**

Thurs., Sept. 24 at 5 pm EST

Tickets: Free with registration

Serving as the official launch of the online exhibition ***From Here to There***, participating artists **Nobutaka Aozaki**, **Hanako Murakami**, and **Aki Sasamoto** will introduce each newly developed project in discussion with Tiffany Lambert, Assistant Curator, Japan Society. Presentations will be followed by a round-table discussion exploring intersections among their distinct projects and will contemplate what it means to make art in this time, moderated by Yukie Kamiya, Gallery Director, Japan Society.

### **Live Events with Artists**

Individual tickets: \$10 per event / \$8 members

Series ticket bundle: \$40 for all events / \$32 members

#### **Nobutaka Aozaki**

- *Retail on Broadway* Reading: Thurs., Oct. 8, 6-8 pm EST  
Performative reading of the names of all retail businesses currently located along Broadway, brought to life by a collection of invited artists and special guests and choreographed by Nobutaka Aozaki.
- Artist talk and gallery walkthrough: Thurs., Dec. 17, 6-7 pm EST

Artist Nobutaka Aozaki discusses the development of his commission, followed by a tour of his intervention on view in the Japan Society Gallery.

### Hanako Murakami

- Photo processing demonstration: Thurs., Nov. 5, 2-3 pm EST  
Learn alternative photo processing techniques from the artist's personal dark room in this live session led by Hanako Murakami.
- Dialogue: Simon Baker x Hanako Murakami: Thurs., Jan. 7, 6-7pm EST  
This conversation traverses the processes, histories, and strategies of influence from the field of film and photography, exploring how artist Hanako Murakami adapts these techniques in her work. With Simon Baker, Director of Maison Européenne de la Photographie.

### Aki Sasamoto

- Performance 1 + Q & A: Thurs., Oct. 22, 6-7 pm EST
- Performance 2 + Q & A with Felipe Arturo: Thurs., Nov. 19, 6-7pm EST
- Performance 3 + Q & A with Kyle Dancewicz: Thurs., Dec. 3, 6-7 pm EST  
Artist Aki Sasamoto and collaborators at Yale School of Art participate in three evenings of improvisational performances followed by conversations with invited guests.

### Monthly website updates:

Oct. 22, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17, 2020

Please visit [japansociety.org](http://japansociety.org) for updates and information regarding online access, tickets & reservations.  
For general inquiries, please call 212-832-1155.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Photography by Tomoya Miura

### Nobutaka Aozaki

Nobutaka Aozaki (b. 1977, Kagoshima, Japan) lives and works in New York. Recent exhibitions include *Futuro Modular*, Rachel Uffner, New York (2019); *In Practice: Another Echo*, SculptureCenter, New York (2018); *Indigeneity, Stack, Sovereignty*, Vera List Center for Art and Politics, New York (2017); *Transportation*, International Studio & Curatorial Program, New York (2016); *There is no Alternative*, SPIKE, Berlin (2015); *Crossing Brooklyn*, Brooklyn Museum (2014); and *Queens International 2013*, Queens Museum (2013). His residencies include the Queens Museum Studio Program, Queens Museum, New York (2014-2016) and *Artist Alliance Inc*, New York (2017). He has been awarded the Artist Files Grant, A Blade of Grass Foundation (2013), and the Artists' Fellowship from New York Foundation for the Arts (2015). Aozaki holds an MFA from Hunter College.



Photography by Yusuke Shimura

### **Hanako Murakami**

Hanako Murakami (b. 1984, Tokyo, Japan) lives and works in Paris. Murakami holds a Bachelor of Literature from the University of Tokyo and an MA in new media from Tokyo University of the Arts. A recipient of grants from the Pola Art Foundation, Murakami produces her works using in-depth research of historical media, such as alternative photographic techniques. Past major exhibitions include *ANTICAMERA (OF THE EYE)*, Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo (2016); *The Capital Room: Beyond Three Dimensional Logical Pictures: Hanako Murakami*, Gallery αM, Tokyo (2015); *Panorama 17*, Le Fresnoy, Studio National d'Art Contemporain (2015); *Practice of Everyday Life*, Aomori Contemporary Art Centre (2011); *Tokyo Story*, Tokyo Wonder Site (2010); and *Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale*, Niigata (2009).



Photography by Takehiro Ikezawa

### **Aki Sasamoto**

Aki Sasamoto (b. 1980, Kanagawa, Japan) is a New York-based artist working in performance, dance, installation, and video who is currently teaching at Yale School of Art's Sculpture Department. She has had solo exhibitions and performances at Danspace Project, New York (2020); The Kitchen, New York (2017); SculptureCenter, Long Island City (2016); and the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson (2012). Sasamoto has been included in biennials and group exhibitions at the Ural Industrial Biennial of Contemporary Art, Russia (2019); the National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan (2018); Shanghai Biennial, China (2016); Gwangju Biennial, Korea (2012); and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2010).

### **About Japan Society Gallery**

Since 1971, Japan Society Gallery continues to be the premier institution in the United States for the display and interpretation of Japanese art and culture. Through groundbreaking exhibitions and related programs, the Gallery cultivates a broader understanding and appreciation of Japan's contributions to global artistic heritage; explores the artistic interconnections Japan shares with its Asian neighbors, the U.S., Latin America, and Europe; and celebrates the diversity of Japanese visual expression from prehistoric times to the present day.

### **About Japan Society**

Founded in 1907, Japan Society in New York City presents sophisticated, topical, and accessible experiences of Japanese art and culture, and facilitates the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and innovation between the U.S. and Japan. Annual events encompass world-class exhibitions, dynamic classical and cutting-edge contemporary performing arts, film premieres and retrospectives, workshops and demonstrations, tastings, family activities, language classes, and a range of high-profile talks and

expert panels that present open, critical dialogue on issues of vital importance to the U.S., Japan, and East Asia.

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