

# FROM HERE TO THERE

**Nobutaka Aozaki**  
**Hanako Murakami**  
**Aki Sasamoto**

**9/24/20—1/21/21**

***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. As an urgent reflection upon radical shifts in society, this dynamic platform reflects upon the current moment and responds to our collective resilience and desire for meaningful connections through artistic expression.

Given the current flux of culture and life, ***From Here to There*** introduces new online commissions by **Nobutaka Aozaki** (New York), **Hanako Murakami** (Paris), and **Aki Sasamoto** (New York), three contemporary artists 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 exhibition website consisting of videos, photographs, texts, ephemera, and more provides living documentation for each in-progress project, with regular website updates accumulating new materials planned throughout the duration of the show. A series of live programs include performances, talks, and demonstrations.

***From Here to There*** aims to blur boundaries and create meaningful connections that bridge physical sites of production and display with online sites to explore creative processes and to cultivate a necessary dialogue around the making, production, and reception of art today.

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

New projects will be added: Thurs., Oct. 22, Thurs., Nov. 19 & Thurs., Dec. 17, 2020



NOBUTAKA AOZAKI



HANAKO MURAKAMI



AKI SASAMOTO

## Virtual Opening: Artists' Presentations + Discussion

**Thurs., Sept. 24 at 5 pm**, Tickets are free but registration is required

Participating artists **Nobutaka Aozaki**, **Hanako Murakami**, and **Aki Sasamoto** introduce each newly developed project in discussion with **Tiffany Lambert**, Assistant Curator, Japan Society. Presentations are followed by a roundtable discussion exploring intersections among their distinct projects and contemplate what it means to make art in this time, moderated by **Yukie Kamiya**, Gallery Director, Japan Society.

## Online Events with Artists

\$40 for all events / \$32 members

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

Virtual Opening: Presentations & Discussion  
with Nobutaka Aozaki, Hanako Murakami,  
and Aki Sasamoto (*see above*)

Nobutaka Aozaki:  
*Retail on Broadway* Performance

Aki Sasamoto: Performance Attempt #1  
+ Q&A with Daisy Nam

Hanako Murakami: Making *Imaginary Landscapes*

Aki Sasamoto: Performance Attempt  
#2 + Q&A with Felipe Arturo

Aki Sasamoto: Performance Attempt  
#3 + Q&A with Kyle Dancewicz

Nobutaka Aozaki: Artist Talk  
& Gallery Walkthrough

Dialogue: Hanako Murakami x  
Simon Baker



## Nobutaka Aozaki

(b. 1977, lives and works in New York) constructs a biographic snapshot of Broadway—the thoroughfare that stretches from the Financial District in the south to the northern tip of Manhattan. 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 trivial found ephemera such as shopping lists and notes retrieved from the sidewalk along Broadway, which started as a native American trail. His work sheds light on and visualizes the lives of anonymous everyday citizens.



## Hanako Murakami

(b. 1984, lives and works in Paris) 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 and photographic plates 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. A centerpiece of her commission will be the development of new, short experimental films created from a 1940s reel originally intended to capture wartime images.



## Aki Sasamoto

(b. 1980, lives and works in New York) operates at the intersection of performance and installation, exploring mundane actions and transforming them into artistic events. She works among 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 this moment of isolation, and is working with students from the Yale School of Art to present a new, live performance series. Taking improvisation as a central theme, the performances will unfold over the course of three individual events.

Current page: Nobutaka Aozaki, photography by Tomoya Miura, image courtesy of Minatomachi Art Table, Nagoya [MAT, Nagoya]; Hanako Murakami, photography by Yusuke Shimura; Aki Sasamoto © Takehiro Iikawa. Previous page, left-to-right: Nobutaka Aozaki, *Grocery Portraits #3* (Dekalb Ave & Wyckoff Ave, Ridgewood, Queens, NY), 2019, archival pigment print and found shopping list, photography by Tom Starkweather, image courtesy of Ulterior Gallery, New York, © Nobutaka Aozaki; Hanako Murakami, *Imaginary Landscapes*, 2020, image courtesy of the artist, © Hanako Murakami; Aki Sasamoto, *Phase Transition*, January 2020, performance/installation, Danspace Project, NYC, photography by Ian Douglas, © Aki Sasamoto.

*From Here to There* is supported, in part, by The New York Community Trust.



Exhibitions and Arts & Culture Lecture Programs at Japan Society are made possible, in part, by the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Endowment Fund, the Mary Griggs Burke Endowment Fund established by the Mary Livingston Griggs and Mary Griggs Burke Foundation, Raphael and Jane Bernstein, Friends of Gallery, and anonymous donors. Support for Arts & Culture Lecture Programs is provided, in part, by the Sandy Heck Lecture Fund.

Transportation assistance is provided by Japan Airlines, the exclusive Japanese airline sponsor of Gallery.



**#HERETHEREJS**