



Detailed installation view of **PAST IN A FUTURE TENSE, TABLE 1**, 2019, hand-blown glass, whiskey glass, HVAC system, centrifugal fan, speed control, red oak and iron table base, 152.4 x 116.8 x 205.7 cm, at "Past in a Future Tense," Bortolami Gallery, New York, 2019. Courtesy the artist and Bortolami Gallery.

"Ghosts wander about in the kitchen and bedrooms, fueled by grudge / They roll your vegetables off a cutting board and crumple your duvet inside its sack." These bitter, vengeful ghouls, summoned by Aki Sasamoto in a poem and video published by Triple Canopy, serve as a metaphor for our unproductive thought patterns that inhabit and disturb our domestic spaces and day-to-day habits, unmooring us from linear time.

Sasamoto translates the spells of these pesky time-muddling spirits into the installation *Past in a Future Tense* (2019), where amber whisky tumblers spin lazily on a long red-oak bar and three wooden cocktail table-tops, their performative pivoting enabled by fan-generated wind streaming through an assembly of glass objects connected to snaking HVAC tubes.

Shown at New York's Bortolami Gallery earlier this year, Sasamoto's installation resembled a haunted liquor bar with possessed objects. Appearing as a rudimentary approximation of laboratory flasks and cylinders, the setup simulates a vivid memory of Sasamoto's: during a time when she was refraining from drinking, she found herself subconsciously beginning to fidget with and spin a glass while daydreaming about sipping scotch. This intimate memory—fueled by a longing that she anthropomorphized into the grudge-filled ghosts of her poem "Do Nut Diagram" (2018)—is writ large in the installation, the distracted music of glass spinning magnifying the phantoms that "dwell in the space of routines / Trying to distract the myopic livings from seeming productivity." These sounds direct our attention toward the fishbowl-like vessels in which the tumblers are trapped, appearing as specimen displays and inviting us to draw up a seat at the bar to gaze at the spectacle of humankind's peculiar penchant for procrastination and unhealthy fixations.

YSABELLE CHEUNG

AKI

SASAMOTO



Detailed installation view of **PAST IN A FUTURE TENSE, BAR END**, 2019, hand-blown glass, whiskey glass, HVAC system, centrifugal fan, speed control, red oak, foot rail, coat hooks, umbrella, 381 x 536 x 50.8 cm, at "Past in a Future Tense," Bortolami Gallery, New York, 2019. Courtesy the artist and Bortolami Gallery.