

STUDIO VOLTAIRE

Aki Sasamoto

4 February–19 April 2026



Aki Sasamoto, *Sink or Float*, 2022, installation view at the 59th Venice Biennale. Image courtesy of Take Ninagawa, Tokyo, and Bortolami Gallery, New York. Photo by Wolfgang Trager.

Studio Voltaire will present Aki Sasamoto's first solo institutional exhibition in the UK.

Through subjects as varied as motherhood, bars, garbage and the chirality of snail shells, Aki Sasamoto (b. 1980, Kanagawa, Japan) navigates the space between fiction and reality, subjectivity and fact.

At Studio Voltaire, Sasamoto will develop a major site-specific installation that functions as both sculptural environment and performance set. Central to the work is a custom-built, oversized griddle, drawing inspiration from televised cooking shows. Blurring the lines between pre- and post-production, her performances unfold as live acts of drawing or choreography, where the manipulation of ingredients across the griddle's surface suggests a constantly changing composition. Through this new work, Sasamoto develops her exploration of the poetics of everyday actions.

Rooted in the often overlooked or incidental observations of daily life, Sasamoto's work incisively probes the tension between disorder and control, weaving together fables, anecdotes and autobiographical fragments. By incorporating everyday contemporary detritus into ambitious and complex installations, Sasamoto invites her audiences to retune their perceptions of the seemingly mundane.

Sasamoto's curiosity in systems and environments materialize in ludic experiments that examine the complex interplay between objects, people and their surroundings. Her meticulously staged installations function as prompts or scores, challenging

conventional definitions of sculpture, and instead inviting active participation in her unfolding narratives. With survey exhibitions being staged at the Museum of Tokyo in August 2025 and Pirelli HangarBicocca Milan in 2026, this is a key moment to present Sasamoto's experimental and evolving new work in the UK.

ENDS

Notes to editors

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Supporters and Funders

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About Aki Sasamoto

Aki Sasamoto (b. 1980, Kanagawa, Japan) is a New York-based artist who works in performance, dance, installation, and video and teaches at Yale School of Art's Sculpture Department.

Key solo exhibitions include Para Site, Hong Kong (2024); Queens Museum, New York (2023-2024); the American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York (2023); The Kitchen, New York (2017); and SculptureCenter, New York (2016). She has participated widely in international exhibitions including the 59th Venice Biennale (2022); Aichi Triennale (2022); Busan Biennale (2022); Okayama Art Summit (2022); Kochi-Muziris Biennale (2016); Yokohama Triennale (2008); and the Whitney Biennial (2010). Sasamoto received the Calder Prize in 2023. Survey exhibitions will be staged at the Museum of Tokyo from August to November 2025 and Pirelli HangarBicocca Milan in 2026.

About Studio Voltaire

Studio Voltaire is one of the UK's leading not-for-profit arts and education organisations. Championing emerging and under-represented artists, we commission and produce exhibitions, artist development programmes, civic and learning projects, live events and offsite commissions. Studio Voltaire is a registered charity and part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio.

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