

THE NEW YORKER

May 1, 2017

ART

GALLERIES—CHELSEA

Aki Sasamoto

Sasamoto makes art that thinks out loud, constructing sculptures and environments that double as evocative props and settings for performances, which are equal parts lecture, experiment, and standup routine. Her latest subject is the “yield point,” the amount of stress under which a given material will fall apart. Garbage bags stick to the gallery walls thanks to the magic of static electricity, lights pulse, and a rattling sound intermittently fills the room; in an austere handsome video, a plastic bag undergoes a mechanical stress test. A trampoline is installed inside one of two immaculate green dumpsters, as if to abet dumpster diving. The over-all effect is that of a charmingly hopeful retro-futurism. (Sasamoto performs on Thursdays and Saturdays.) *Through May 13. (The Kitchen, 512 W. 19th St. 212-255-5793.)*