

JAPAN INSTITUTE
ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Japan Institute is the global cultural initiative of Portland Japanese Garden. This sibling organization was created to expand our programmatic offerings, both in the Garden and more broadly around the world. Rui Sasaki's residency and art exhibition is an example of where Japan Institute's programming (the residency) brings a unique experience to Portland Japanese Garden (the art exhibition).

We look forward to being able to share additional ways that Japan Institute advances our mission of Inspiring Harmony & Peace at Portland Japanese Garden.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SUBTLE
INTIMACY
HERE AND THERE

ARTWORKS BY RUI SASAKI

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Rui Sasaki is a Japanese artist and educator whose work reflects her fascination with glass, something clear and transparent that has the ability to obscure and even transform things seen through it. Sasaki graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with an MFA in glass after completing her BA in Industrial, Interior & Craft Design from Musashino Art University in Tokyo, Japan. She has taught at universities and has participated in artist-in-residence programs and exhibitions around the world. *Subtle Intimacy* is Sasaki's first solo show on the West Coast and is the culmination of her Japan Institute residency during September 2022 and December - January 2023.

MAR 18 - JUN 12, 2023

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Subtle Intimacy: Here and There represents Sasaki's exploration of an elusive sense of "home." Sasaki makes art as a form of research, using glass to evoke transitory details that create a sense of familiarity within a new or foreign environment. Having examined the subtle similarities and differences between here and the places she's been before, Sasaki's work invites us to encounter Portland Japanese Garden in a new and intimate way, as traces of nature are brought indoors, and her work is infused into the landscape of the Garden.

AMAYADORI

OUTDOOR INSTALLATION

Rain has fascinated Sasaki for as long as she can remember. Sasaki's Amayadori, Japanese for "taking shelter from rain" includes transparent glass stringers that are almost invisible and yet, when they catch the sunlight, the eye is drawn to an area of empty space that many people may overlook. Sasaki reveals, "Nature itself is so beautiful and dynamic that artwork can't win. But if you put a humanmade object, art, in nature, you might see something else that you never noticed before."

SUBTLE INTIMACY: HERE AND THERE

PAVILION GALLERY

Entering the darkened Pavilion Gallery, one encounters an illuminated glass room made up from dozens of ashen plant remnants collected from Japan and Portland Japanese Garden. Simultaneously scientific and ethereal, the delicate impressions encourage viewers to recall memories that might arise from the remains. Many of the plants were selected from the detritus of our gardeners' labors, as they trained, pruned and tended to the grounds. Their work ensures that Portland Japanese Garden continues to thrive for generations, while Sasaki's artwork encases and preserves the last physical traces of those carefully nurtured plants.

THE CORNER

KASHINTEI TEA HOUSE

Sasaki finds the corners of rooms to be cozy and comforting, representing "the edge between the public and the private." The glass sculpture resting inside the Kashintei is cast from a corner in Sasaki's home in Kanazawa, Japan and was chosen specifically for this location in the Garden, a space where tea ceremony is conducted in intimate quarters. Through this work, Sasaki contemplates how to make a feeling of "home," an intangible quality, into something physical.

INSIDE THE KILN

CALVIN AND MAYHO
TANABE GALLERY

Learn more about the process behind the artwork on display through a timelapse video created by Bullseye Glass Co. This installation also features small-scale works by Rui Sasaki.