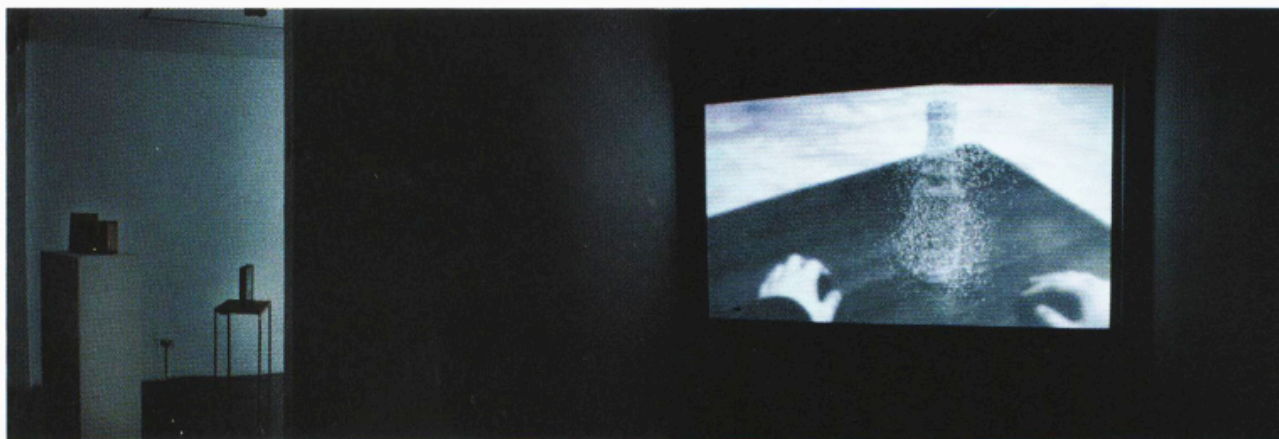


HIRAKI SAWA

MAISTERRAVALBUENA - MADRID



Hiraki Sawa's videos are an invitation to daydream. In "Things Go Around," his show of recent works in Madrid, one can enjoy being seduced. Once you enter the darkened gallery interior visions are simultaneously projected onto the wall, large screens and monitors embedded into wooden boxes. Among these reveries there is a woman jumping in circles, a bell spinning non-stop, what seems to be a revolving record, several old-looking gears in circular motion and the restless moon. But in fact, not only the images are rotating; the visitor is also endlessly going around trying to

capture the meaning of these mind trips.

Indeed, there are additional intangible things that go around. Earlier this year, Sawa presented the full-version of the video installation *O* (2009) at James Cohan in New York. Apart from the spinning and circular imaginary, the work refers in a suggestive manner to natural cycles, equilibrium and instability. As stated by Sawa, "Coming full circle is movement without displacement." In another piece on view at both locations, *did I?* (2011), the artist addresses the looped essence of memory in a video about its loss. One of

the most compelling sequences shows a shelf with records and a heap of sand that makes the albums disappear one by one as it grows. The passing of time plays against memory.

Displacement is usually at the core of Sawa's use of images. Sometimes his works produce a nostalgic effect; at others time there is an amusing discomfort that comes with the unexpected. By playing with scale or the apparition of elements in impossible though realistic settings, Sawa is capable of drawing us into his world. In *Sleeping Machine I* and *II* (both 2011), a number of working clocks, measuring devices and outdated utensils share the screen with a group of sheep that wander through an empty nocturnal city. Dreams are like that: they go round and round, always in motion, even if that movement takes us literally nowhere but back to our point of departure.

Emma Brasó

HIRAKI SAWA, "Things go Around," 2011. Installation view at Maisterravalbuena, Madrid, 2011. Courtesy James Cohan New York / Shanghai and Maisterravalbuena, Madrid.