

Ryuichi Sakamoto

Sonic Mandala, 2006

Musical composition and installation

23.5 x 46 x 46 inches (Japanese table with sand)

24 x 18 x 18 inches (adjacent electronics, laptop, sound equipment)

\$5,000



The work is comprised of several components, to create a sound-generated shifting / changing of the patterning of sand on a paper surface. There is a custom Japanese table with a paper surface and 13 embedded speakers, plus computer and sound equipment attached by a series of cables. When possible, this sound equipment is stored out of view during exhibition, with cables dressed and concealed from foot traffic.

In this sound installation, Sakamoto strives to express the lessons he learned from an encounter with the Dalai Lama. He explains:

“I wanted to know the meaning of salvation for my first opera ‘Life’, so I went to Ladakh to hear the answer from His Holiness the Dalai Lama. From the very first moment when he walked into the room, I thought I saw a light coming from him. I knew he’s the one at that very moment. In this sound installation, I wanted to express the compassion, gentleness, and serenity I learned from him. I improvised the piano very peacefully over the sounds of the Tibetan singing bowl, which are reversed and looped.”