

"Exhausted Helium - homage to Andy Warhol after Nobutaka Aozaki"

I saw Nobutaka Aozaki's website in late spring of 2016. I knew he was a funny guy, but his works are even more funny than he is. I laughed a lot while looking through his website. Then, one of his works impressed me. The work was *"I Think About Warhol When I Eat Potato Chips, 2012, Inside-out potato chip bags, fishing wire"*

He thinks of Andy Warhol when he eats potato chips. . I was amazed how Nobu's brain works very flexible. I was impressed because I never think of Warhol when I eat potato chips. I think about Warhol quite often, especially when I am at a supermarket. There are Campbell Soup and Coca Cola. When I see Tide, the laundry detergent, I think of Paul McCarthy. As I am a serious house wife/artist, I go there everyday and think about art.

My empty potato chips bags didn't have energy and I didn't have Helium. I looked at my inside out potato chips bag and I thought they were tired. Very tired. They finished their duties to hold potato chips. They were just waiting to be buried into a garbage bag. I washed them, stuffed them and hung them with clothespins in my bathroom. It was my first potato chips work. I named it *"Exhausted Helium - homage to Andy Warhol after Nobutaka Aozaki"*.



Soon after I made this work, my husband had series of seizures and he was hospitalized. It was very serious and his hospitalization lasted six months. When he was in the hospital, I was eating potato chips everyday. I wanted to be beside his bed all the time; I ate that amount of potato chips almost unconsciously. I didn't throw away the empty bags and they all became series of the work. Now, I saw the work, I think the exhausted one was me; not potato chips bags.



- Mieko Meguro May 30, 2017