



# PRESS RELEASE

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## SAWAKO | BITTER SWEET

12K1047 | CD | APRIL 2008

New York/Tokyo based Sawako is a musician, software designer, and multimedia artist whose multi-disciplinary works intermix and pollenate her music with inspiration ranging from nature, science, academia and poetic motion.

Following releases on Anticipate and And/Oar, *Bitter Sweet* is Sawako's 2nd release on 12k after the critically acclaimed *Hum* (12k1035) in 2005. Her music is fragile and intimate, delicate, ephemeral and resonant. *Bitter Sweet* is unmistakably Sawako but finds itself moving into much, much deeper territory than her previous works. Building on her past forays into experimental pop, she uses low and mid-frequency drones and soft, melodic highlights to shape beds of stripped-down, shifting into hypnotic and very linear tracks that fill the space they exist. *Bitter Sweet* is more drone and tonal based than Sawako's previous works. However, these gentle movements are punctuated by field recordings and acoustic instrumentation with cello provided by Jacob Kirkegaard and guitar by Radiosonde and Ryan Francesconi who also co-write two of the pieces on the album. In what has become a bit of a signature, Sawako lends her own voice to the ending lullaby "A Last Next." These combination produce rich results.

*Bitter Sweet's* diffuse and hazy soundscaping is Sawako's most mature work to date, relying less on her previous child-like melodies while remaining feminine and tender. She has come into her own after having established herself for a number of years as a New Yorker where she has tirelessly performed, studied and created as an important member of the city's electronic music community.

*Bitter Sweet* is packaged in a 6-panel digipack with photography throughout by Brooklyn-based artist and photographer Maki Kaoru.



**Sawako** is a sound sculptor, a timeline-based artist and a signal alchemist in the urban life environment who understands the value of dynamics and the power of silence. Once through the processor named Sawako, subtle fragments in everyday life float in space vividly with a digital yet organic texture. She is interested in the soundscape and the media scape of digital era, and her activities are making bridge between public and private, virtual and actual world.

Sawako released her albums from 12k (USA), and/OAR(USA) and Anticipate (USA). She had collaborated with Taylor Deupree, asuna, HYPO, RF, Toshimaru Nakamura, Taku Sugimoto, Andrew Deutsch, Jacob Kirkegaard, Kenneth Kirschner, Radiosonde, among others. Her unique sonic world has been called "post romantic sound" by Boston's Weekly Dig.

She has performed internationally as an audio and/or visual artist in MUTEK (Canada): Tonic, Diapason, Monkey Town, Issue Project Room, Starbucks Salon, BAP Festival (NYC); Corcoran Gallery (Washington DC); Glade Festival, Resonance FM (UK); Batofar (Paris); Offsite, Super Delux, Bullets, Apple Store (Japan). In 2006, she was awarded a Jerome Foundation grant to create a commissioned work for Roulette.

Her work has been featured in The Wire (UK), Blow Up (Italy), Improvised Music from Japan (Japan), NY Art (US), e/i magazine (US), DEBUG (Germany), Go MAG (Spain), GAFFA (Denmark) among others.

Sawako obtained a Master's degree in Interactive Telecommunications from New York University where she studied Networked Expression, Physical Computing, Post Linear Narrative and Audio/Visual Studies. She received a B.A. from Environmental Information Department at Keio University, SFC, Japan.

Born in Nagoya, Japan, studying the classical piano over 10 years and Japanese Nohgaku Theatre for 6 years when she was a child.