

Ai Kitano

by Andre Darlington

Sick of sight, Ai Kitano constructed glasses by which the wearer was rendered totally blind. The first few pairs were crude: he soldered the bottoms of tuna fish cans onto frames he had found at an antique store.

Slowly, as demand for Kitano's glasses increased, he began to cut lenses from more expensive materials: gold, leather, platinum, and silk. For some customers he punctured the lenses at the edges so that the wearer could secretly see. For others, he continued to make the frames so excessively large that even a side-glance revealed nothing.

Soon the glasses came into fashion. No one wanted to see. As Ai Kitano's sons grew older they went into business for themselves, constructing preventative devices for hearing, tasting, and finally, a system for completely impeding the ability to touch.

