

EASY READING GUIDE



Easy to Read

CHIHARU SHIOTA

*My House
is your House*

Azkuna Zentroa – Alhóndiga Bilbao, in collaboration with Asociación Lectura Fácil Euskadi, publishes an Easy Reading Guide for each exhibition.

Its contents are drafted in clear simple language, designed to be understood by people with reading or comprehension difficulties.

TITLE: My House is your House

ARTIST: Chiharu Shiota

VENUE: Azkuna Zentroa (Exhibition Hall)

DATE: 27 May 2025 - 28 September 2025

THE ARTIST

Chiharu Shiota is a Japanese artist.
She was born in Osaka in 1972 and lives in Berlin.
She received training in painting and
visual arts in Japan and Berlin.
She is one of the leading figures
in contemporary world art.

Her works are a form of **multidisciplinary** art
and have been exhibited at some of the most
prestigious museums and cultural centres
in the world, from New York to Paris,
including the United Kingdom or Australia.

She has also taken part in numerous
international exhibitions,
such as the 56th Venice Biennale,
representing Japan.

Multidisciplinary: the artist
uses different media, such
as photography, painting,
and video, among others.

THE CURATOR

Tereza de Arruda is the **curator** of the exhibition.
She was born in São Paulo, Brazil, in 1965.
She is an art historian and curates
exhibitions by leading artists
such as Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, Sigmar Polke,
Yang Shaobin and Wang Chengyun,
in Europe, South America, the United States and Asia.

Curator: the person
in charge of selecting
the works of art for an
exhibition. A curator is a
specialist in the subject
matter, responsible for
preparing the curatorial
statement on the exhibit.

THE EXHIBITION: The art of Chiaru Shiota

This is the first solo exhibition
by Chiaru Shiota in the Basque Country.
The artist is highly recognized for her large
installations woven in wool.

The main themes of her works are
time, movement, dreams and memory.

Her works are conceived out of everyday
items, memories, emotions
or personal experiences
and objects that have been found
or are out of use.

Garments, furniture, and other items
often take centre stage
in her works to talk about home,
migration, life and death.

Chiharu Shiota's artistic language is universal.
It is addressed to all audiences,
no matter their language, nationality,
religion or culture.

The red colour plays a main role in her works.
In addition to appearing next to the white colour
on the flag of Japan,
red represents life, energy, and sun.
The artist associates red with blood and life.

THE EXHIBITION: “My House is your House”

In Association with Azkuna Zentroa (AZ)

Chiharu Shiota has worked with the AZ team to foster a “dialogue” between her work and the architecture of Bilbao’s Alhóndiga.

The exhibition layout connects 2 spaces at Azkuna Zentroa: the Atrium and the Exhibition Hall.

Visitors will encounter works spanning from her earliest pieces and those from the 1990s, to the most recent ones.

The exhibition “My House is your House” invites the audience to live an **immersive** experience in Shiota’s world.

Immersive: it makes the audience experience a virtual reality, as if it were authentic, real.

The exhibition shows different home environments that connect each person with his or her memories, based on items of everyday life.

What we can see in each space?

At the Atrium:

Large red dresses that speak of the body and the skin. The dress is that skin that protects us and where we hide. It is a **metaphor** for one’s own home as our most intimate and personal space.

Metaphor: using a word or phrase to refer to something else, with which it has some resemblance or relationship.

At the Exhibition Hall:

Installations woven with thread.

Threads represent paths, stories,
and experiences, which have no clear
beginning or end.

Hanging items, such as clothes or windows,
represent objects that are both present
and absent, like life itself and memory.

Shiota has created an installation
specifically for Azkuna Zentroa,
inviting the audience to engage
through letters and drawings.

This work shows how the stories of each person
are part of a larger collective story.

