

CHIHARA SHIOTA My HOUSE is your HOUSE

May 27th — September 28th / 2025

PUBLIC PROGRAMME

INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

Chiharu Shiota and Tereza de Arruda

May 27th, 2025, Tuesday

6:00 p.m. Bastida hall

Free admission with prior online registration, until full capacity is reached

AUDIOGUIDE



GUIDED TOURS PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTORY TOURS

Every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. (30')

Exhibition Hall

FREE ADMISSION, prior registration at AZ Info, Exhibition Hall or azkunazentroa.eus, until full capacity is reached.

LANGUAGE: Spanish and Basque on request. On the first Thursday of every month, visit will be in Basque.

MINIMUM CAPACITY: 4 people

GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

Open tour through a paper guide with activities and games around of the exhibition to generate family dialogue and foster curiosity in terms of perspective and reflection.

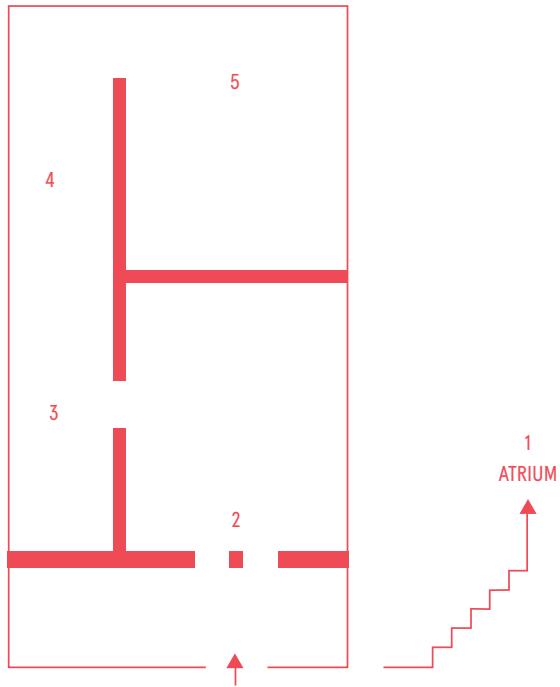
Request the material in the Exhibition Hall foyer

atrium

1 / Internal Line

In the Atrium, the artist has conceived an installation featuring monumental red dresses. With extraordinary visual impact, grand scale, and profound meaning, these dresses represent absent beings, symbolized through their suspended, autonomous, and interconnected clothing. They embody existence, exchange, and the preservation of ephemeral memories. In this case, the cloth functions also like a house, symbolizing protection and affection for the human being.

EXHIBITION ROOM



2 / My House is your House

In Chiharu Shiota's work, the house is a profound and recurring symbol that embodies themes of memory, identity, belonging, and the passage of time.

These themes materialize in this exhibition through works such as *The Inside and Outside*. This installation includes letters and drawings provided by the public via the participatory action *Share the story of your home*.

3 / Becoming Painting

During her studies, Chiharu Shiota felt the need to expand her artistic expression and abandoned painting, believing it didn't fully realize her creative potential. In 1994 she conceived her first performance, *Becoming Painting*, marking her shift from conventional painting and towards transforming her creative process in a direct, personal extension of her own existence.

4 / Connected to the Universe

Shiota has a unique ability to transform her personal experiences into a pure and sublime artistic language, focusing on a few simple, yet profound, elements. The prints and drawings featured here depict a being connected to the universe by a thread, symbolizing the umbilical cord or perhaps the beginning of life before birth.

5 / Body and Soul

The body, fragility, and illness are deeply embedded concerns in Chiharu Shiota's art, often linked to the human form and, more specifically, to her own experiences. These installations emphasize the body's transience while exploring the intimate, often invisible forces that shape our physical, emotional realities and soul.

My House is your House is the first solo exhibition in the Basque Country by Japanese Berlin based artist Chiharu Shiota (Osaka, Japan, 1972), a leading figure in contemporary world art. The exhibition showcases Shiota's career from the 1990s onwards and includes new site-specific installations inspired by Azkuna Zentroa and Bilbao.

Chiharu Shiota's body of work explores universal themes such as the home, migration, life and death through everyday items—clothes, furniture, personal objects. These elements are enveloped in intricate threaded patterns, which refer both to traditional weaving and eastern calligraphy. Her great-scale works are often red in colour, which symbolises the sun, life and energy in Japanese culture. They are pieces which transcend spoken language, nationality and religion, offering a universal narrative on loss, connection, and the preservation of memory.

In *My House is your House*, curated by art historian Tereza de Arruda, Chiharu Shiota has worked alongside Azkuna Zentroa on the concept of home, or casa/etxea, extending the domestic realm to a public space, in dialogue with the architecture of Bilbao's Alhóndiga building. The result, as a site-specific installation, invites the public to experience different home settings that connect visitors with their memories through elements of everyday life.

CHIHARU SHIOTA

(Osaka, Japan, 1972)

Chiharu Shiota, trained in painting (Kyoto Seika University, 1992–1996) and the visual arts (Braunschweig University of Art, 1997–1999 / Berlin University of the Arts, 1999–2003), lives and is based in Berlin.

She has exhibited, *inter alia*, at Nakanoshima Museum of Art de Osaka; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art (QAGoMA), Brisbane; ZKM | Zentrum für Kunst und Medien, Karlsruhe; Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand, Wellington; Mori Museum of Art, Tokyo; Gropius Bau, Berlin; Art Gallery of South Australia; Yorkshire Sculpture Park, United Kingdom; Kochi Museum of Art; and Osaka National Art Museum. During the first quarter of 2025 she has exhibited at the Grand Palais, Paris.

She has also taken part in numerous international exhibitions such as the Oku-Noto International Art Festival, the Biennale of Sydney, the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale, the Yokohama Triennale and the SESC Pinheiros of São Paulo. In 2015, Shiota was selected to represent Japan at the 56th Venice Biennale.

TEREZA DE ARRUDA

(São Paulo, Brazil, 1965)

Tereza de Arruda is an art historian and curator. She lives between São Paulo (Brazil) and Berlin (Germany), and curates, in Europe, South America, the United States, and Asia, solo exhibitions by artists including Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, Chiharu Shiota, Sigmar Polke, Yang Shaobin, and Wang Chengyun; as well as international collective exhibitions within different relevant socio-cultural contexts.