

CHIHARU SHIOTA: THE UNSETTLED SOUL

*The Unsettled Soul* is the first exhibition in the Czech Republic by Berlin-based Japanese artist Chiharu Shiota (b. 1972). Renowned for her distinctive visual language, which combines drawing, performance, sculpture, and installation art, Shiota addresses fundamental existential concerns. Through large-scale thread installations incorporating everyday objects, she creates powerful, dreamlike environments. In her work, threads symbolise various types of connections, such as blood vessels, human relationships, or territorial bonds. Shiota weaves poetic worlds where personal history resonates with collective memory. In the artist’s own words, she “draws in space” to manifest “a presence in the absence”.

For Kunsthalle Praha, Chiharu Shiota has conceived a journey into the human condition, exploring the mystery of life and death and the passage of

BIO

Chiharu Shiota was born in Osaka, Japan, in 1972 and lives and works in Berlin. In 2008 she was awarded with the Art Encouragement Prize of the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology. Her work has been displayed at institutions around the world, including the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles (2023), the Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) in Brisbane (2022), ZKM | Zentrum für Kunst und Medien Karlsruhe (2021), the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington (2020), the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo (2019), Gropius Bau in Berlin (2019), the Art Gallery of South Australia in Adelaide

time. The artist has transformed the exhibition spaces with four immersive interventions, inviting the viewer to reflect on their own perceptions of the past and the present as well as the transitory nature of existence.

While in Gallery 1 the works *Crossing Paths with Fate* and *Silent Concert* question the notion of temporality, in Gallery 2 *Multiple Realities* and *The Heart in Your Home* examine the boundary between inner and outer worlds. In addition to these recent installations, the exhibition offers an overview of Chiharu Shiota’s artistic trajectory since the 1990s, presented through a selection of works, films, archives, and a chronology located on the second floor.



(2018), Yorkshire Sculpture Park (2018), the Power Station of Art in Shanghai (2017), K21 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen in Düsseldorf (2015), the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC (2014), the Museum of Art, Kochi (2013), and the National Museum of Art, Osaka (2008), among others. She has also participated in numerous international exhibitions such as the Aichi Triennale (2022), the Oku-Noto Triennale (2017), the 20th Biennale of Sydney (2016), the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale (2009), and the Yokohama Triennale (2001). In 2015 Shiota was selected to represent Japan at the 56th Venice Biennale.

CHIHARU SHIOTA: THE UNSETTLED SOUL  
28 11 2024 – 28 04 2025

CURATED BY Christelle Havranek  
EXHIBITION PRODUCTION Eliška Žáková,  
Julia Strebellow (Studio Chiharu Shiota)  
EXHIBITION DESIGN Matej Al-Ali  
GRAPHIC DESIGN Lucie Zelmanová, Ida Fárová  
TECHNICAL PRODUCTION Matej Al-Ali, Leoš Drábek,  
Tomoyuki Ueno (Studio Chiharu Shiota)  
PROJECT ASSISTANT Zuzana Brožíková  
INCOMING LOANS COORDINATOR Barbora Dukátová  
COMMUNICATIONS Zuzana Dusilová, Miriam Diopová, Matt Shestakov  
LEARNING AND SPECIAL PROGRAMME Martina Freitagová,  
Aneta Kučeříková, Barbora Škaloudová  
PUBLICATIONS MANAGER Věra Janíčková  
EXHIBITION CATALOGUE PRODUCTION Adéla Procházková,  
Rosalie Pflieger (Studio Chiharu Shiota)  
TRANSLATIONS INTO CZECH Petra Jelínková  
EDITING AND PROOFREADING Brian D. Vondrak (EN), Studio Datle (CZ)  
EXECUTION OF THE EXHIBITION ARCHITECTURE AND GRAPHICS  
Josef Dvořák, Tomáš Kaštánek, David Syrovátka, Wall-Ink (Michal Redek)  
INSTALLATION Patrik Adamec, Mariia Aksinina, Anna Blabla, Leilani Bömerová  
Magdaléna Brožíková, Johana Černochová, Natalie Čulkova,  
Nicole Haismanová, Oskar Hořánek, František Javorský, Lenka Krejčová,  
Eliška Kvíčalová, Simona Macho, Hana Marhounová, Šárka Mikesková,  
Jan Oberreiter, Jana Oravcová, Kui Soon Park (Studio Chiharu Shiota),  
Michaela Provodová, Paulina Ser, Jakub Slanina, Augustin Soukup,  
Jakub Šimek, Lukáš Šmejkal, Ján Tompkins, Athina Tsantekidou  
(Studio Chiharu Shiota), Tomoyuki Ueno (Studio Chiharu Shiota),  
Tetsuhiro Uozumi (Studio Chiharu Shiota), Mikuláš Zipper  
AV SET-UP AND TECHNICAL COLLABORATION Lunchmeat Studio

Cover Photo: *Two Boats, One Direction*, 2019  
installation view *Lifelines*, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo, 2019,  
photo: Ding Musa; © OOAS, Praha, 2024 and the artist

Kunsthalle Praha thanks all of its collaborators who through their helpfulness have made this exhibition happen.

Special thanks to Galerie Templon (Paris, Brussels, New York)

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The exhibition is held under the honorary patronage of the Embassy of Japan in the Czech Republic.

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Japonska v ČR  
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Praha

   
www.kunsthallepraha.org

CHIHARU  
SHIOTA

NEKLIDNÁ DUŠE  
THE UNSETTLED  
SOUL



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English





*In Silence*, 2002/2019  
 installation view *Shiota Chiharu: The Soul Trembles*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, 2019  
 (courtesy of Kenji Taki Gallery), photo: Sunhi Mang; photo courtesy: Mori Art Museum,  
 Tokyo; © OOAS, Praha, 2024 and the artist

## TOURS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMME

A series of lectures, workshops, and other special events will take place as part of the special programme accompanying the exhibition.

**TransformArt**  
 10 03 – 12 05 2025

TransformArt is a regular series of lectures on contemporary art and its intersections with other subjects of study, featuring prominent figures from curatorial, artistic, and academic circles. The course is designed for anyone who wants to understand

the role of contemporary art in our daily lives, whether they are students preparing for art universities or professionals looking to broaden their horizons with artistic topics.

You can find the entire programme on our website.



## CATALOGUE Chiharu Shiota: The Unsettled Soul

**Edited by Christelle Havranek**

Along with the exhibition *The Unsettled Soul*, Kunsthalle Praha is set to release an illustrated catalogue in February 2025, with international distribution by the prestigious Berlin publishing house DCV. In addition to extensive photographic documentation of the exhibition, the uniquely designed publication with hand-stitched Japanese fukurotoji binding features an essay by curator and writer Jason Waite discussing Chiharu Shiota's early works as well as the material

realities of Japan that shaped her practice. The publication also includes an interview with the artist conducted by the editor of the catalogue and curator of the exhibition, Christelle Havranek, which focuses on the main themes of Shiota's installations and the creation of the current exhibition.

Available from mid-February 2025 in the Kunsthalle Praha Design Shop and at [www.shop.kunsthallepraha.org](http://www.shop.kunsthallepraha.org).



*One Line*, 1994  
 performance/installation (The Australian National University School of Art, Canberra),  
 photo: Ben Stone; © OOAS, Praha, 2024 and the artist