



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
For immediate release



## **In an Australian-first the Art Gallery of South Australia presents three major offerings by leading contemporary artist Chiharu Shiota**

**Adelaide, Australia:** From 24 August 2018, the Art Gallery of South Australia will present three major projects by internationally acclaimed contemporary Japanese artist Chiharu Shiota. The Gallery will be transformed with the trilogy of offerings which includes the artist's first major solo survey exhibition to be shown in an Australian public gallery, a site-specific installation featuring Shiota's iconic string practice, and a new public work made for the façade of the Gallery.

Chiharu Shiota has had a long-standing relationship with Australia dating back to a career-defining experience as an exchange student at the Canberra School of Art in 1994. It was here in Australia that her signature 'thread installations' were developed, signalling the beginning of her now iconic and bold visual vocabulary that includes drawing, performance and installation.

It is this transformative time in Australia that is the starting point for *Embodied*, the first major solo survey exhibition of Shiota's work in Australia, co-curated by Leigh Robb, Curator of Contemporary Art and Russell Kilty, Associate Curator of Asian Art. Spanning 25 years, this exhibition explores Shiota's early performances captured through photography, drawing and the moving image, as well as new sculptures and works on paper.

Accompanying the exhibition will be a major commissioned acquisition for the Art Gallery's collection featuring Shiota's string practice. Titled, *Absence Embodied*, this immersive work will incorporate 180 kilometres of red wool and feature sculptural elements. A unique drawing in space, the work will be the only large-scale permanent installation of Shiota's work in a public institution in the Southern Hemisphere and will be realised in the Gallery's historic Melrose Wing. Shiota's immersive installations draw on personal experiences, emotions and memories to create universally resonant works.

In the artist's own words 'an installation is about the moment. It has the power to evoke the meaning of life and death for the audience.'

A new site-specific public work will also be on view at the Art Gallery. Three of Shiota's iconic dresses, each measuring over six metres in length, will emblazon the façade of the North Terrace entrance. Titled *Internal*, this work marks the first time the artist has used the colour red in her dress series.

Chiharu Shiota was born in 1972 in Osaka, Japan and lives and works in Berlin. Over the course of the past three decades she has built an international career, exhibiting widely in major museums across Europe, Asia and Australia. In 2015 she represented Japan at the 56th Venice Biennale with *The Key in the Hand*, 2015.

Her long-standing relationship with Australia includes major projects: *In Silence* at DETACHED, Hobart in 2011, and *Conscious Sleep*, for the 20th Biennale of Sydney, Cockatoo Island, in 2016.

**Survey exhibition *Chiharu Shiota: Embodied* runs from Friday 24 August to Sunday 28 October 2018 in Galleries 9, 10 and 11 at the Art Gallery of South Australia.**

**Installation *Chiharu Shiota: Absence Embodied* will be on ongoing display in the Art Gallery of South Australia's historic Melrose Wing of European Art from Friday 24 August 2018.**

**Public work *Chiharu Shiota: Internal* will be on display on the Art Gallery of South Australia's façade from Friday 24 August to Sunday 21 October 2018.**

Admission is free. For further information visit [artgallery.sa.gov.au](http://artgallery.sa.gov.au).

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This project has been made possible through the generous support of the Gwinnett family. Presented as part of the OzAsia Festival.

**MEDIA PREVIEW** | Thursday 23 August at 11am

\*artist Chiharu Shiota will be in Adelaide and available for interviews / photo opportunities at the Media Preview

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**IMAGES** available for download from [https://files.artgallery.sa.gov.au/ftp/marketing/ChiharuShiota\\_ImageGallery.zip](https://files.artgallery.sa.gov.au/ftp/marketing/ChiharuShiota_ImageGallery.zip)

image left: Chiharu Shiota. Photo by Sunhi Mang. Courtesy of the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery. image right still: Chiharu Shiota, Japan, born 1972, *Wall*, 2010, Berlin, HD DSLR video, colour, sound, 16:9, 3'39"; Courtesy the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery.