

KÖNIG LONDON

CHI HARU SHIOTA NAVIGATING THE UNKNOWN

9 OCTOBER, 2020 – 19 DECEMBER, 2020

I check my phone first thing in the morning, I read any new emails, I check message on my social media, I listen to voicemails. Each day we are targeted with an endless amount of information. It has never been easier to receive information from all over the world. But all the information changes all the time. I watch the news with my family every day. The volume of information is like a wave, swallowing my body.

It is difficult to orient oneself in this new world. Where is the surface in this ocean of information? Our human body is not adapting and changing at the same speed, so it is becoming more complex to find the real meaning of life. What is our purpose? Where is our destination in life? People believe that death is our ultimate destination and the end of life, but I believe time is a circular construct, and when we die, our consciousness transcends into another dimension. There is no beginning or end.

The boats float within the space, like a body floating in water. Each line is like an emotion. Using threads, lines and rope is something that allows me to explore breath and space like a line in a painting. An accumulation of black lines forms a surface like the night sky which gradually expands into the Universe. But what if it is rather the bottom of the ocean. There is no light at the bottom, everything is black.

The architectural shape of the boat lets the passengers only move forward. We struggle to define our path, our human condition forces us to look forward searching for a destiny although we have no safe points of orientation, we travel on the open ocean without a sense of direction.

Chiharu Shiota

Chiharu Shiota was born in Osaka, Japan (1972) and lives and works in Berlin. Confronting fundamental human concerns such as life, death and relationships, Shiota explores human existence throughout various dimensions by creating an existence in the absence either in her large-scale thread installations that include a variety of common objects and external memorabilia or through her drawings, sculptures, photography and videos.

In 2008, she received the Art Encouragement Prize from the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. Her solo exhibitions across the world include Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2019); Gropius Bau, Berlin (2019); Art Gallery of South Australia (2018); Yorkshire Sculpture Park, UK (2018); Power Station of Art, Shanghai (2017); K21 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf (2015); Smithsonian Institution Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, 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 Oku-Noto International Art Festival (2017), Sydney Biennale (2016), Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale (2009) and Yokohama Triennale (2001). In 2015, Shiota was selected to represent Japan at the 56th Venice Biennale.

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