

# CHIHARU SHIOTA

## IDOMENEO

The Grand Théâtre de Genève is proud to give an insight into Chiharu Shiota's set designs for the new production of Mozart's *IDOMÉNÉE* (*IDOMENEO*). Although they incorporate the distinctive red thread/rope for which the Japanese artist has become well known, the application of her particular approach for a stage set has presented her with new considerations:

*"Usually, the visitor moves through my installations. But creating for the stage requires completely different conditions. For the stage, I must create for the performer, they interact with their environment and the audience watches from afar. With thread, I am drawing in the air, and for the stage, I have created everything out of lines..."*

*This installation represents the energy and movement of the opera. The chair symbolizes the King's throne, but it is empty in the artwork, anyone can sit on it, creating a feeling of an "existence in the absence", while music sheets from the opera are floating within the vortex of the red string, symbolizing the many complicated relationships within the opera. In my artwork, the string is like an extension of a brushstroke from the canvas, but on stage, the string is everything. I create the space, the ocean, and nature with this material."*

Chiharu Shiota is known for her exploration of the intangible. Her personal experiences are often the starting point through which she questions universal issues such as identity, boundaries and existence – and thus the relationships between the body, memory, life and death. Shiota represented Japan at The Venice Biennale in 2015 with *The Key in the Hand* and has exhibited internationally in many major institutions.



Chiharu Shiota in her studio

For his first opera production as director of the Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui has teamed up with Chiharu Shiota. For the set design of *IDOMÉNÉE* Shiota and Cherkaoui will muster the forces of the dancers, as well as the soloists, to realise a set where the red threads will form and transform in continuous movement the spaces inhabited by men and gods - palace, raging ocean, garden or sea monster - and where their stories will intertwine.

Red and black, pastel or thread feature throughout Shiota's work. Rich in symbolism, the colour red alludes for the artist to our connectedness to each other, the interior of the body and the complex network of neural connections in the brain. Pastel or thread are fluid, expressive and immediate materials – and respond to the emotive associations of the colour.

Based in Berlin, Osaka-born Shiota represented Japan at The Venice Biennale in 2015 with her work *The Key in the Hand*. Using red thread to 'draw' in three dimensions, she wove intricate networks of yarn across spaces, incorporating over 50,000 keys. She explained: *'Keys are familiar and very valuable things that protect important people and spaces in our lives. They also inspire us to open the door to unknown worlds.'*

A project courtesy Olivier Varenne.



Drawing for Idomeneo (1),  
2023  
29.5 x 42 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (2),  
2023  
29.5 x 42 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (3),  
2023  
29.5 x 42 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (4),  
2023  
29.5 x 42 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (5),  
2023  
29.5 x 42 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (6),  
2023  
29.5 x 42 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (7),  
2023  
29.5 x 42 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (8),  
2023  
29.5 x 42 cm.



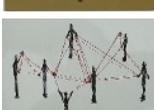
Drawing for Idomeneo (9),  
2023  
29.5 x 42 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (10),  
2023  
29.5 x 42 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (11),  
2023  
29.5 x 42 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (17),  
2023  
29.7 x 21 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (12),  
2023  
29.7 x 21 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (13),  
2023  
29.7 x 21 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (14),  
2023  
29.7 x 21 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (15),  
2023  
29.7 x 21 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (16),  
2023  
29.7 x 21 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (a),  
2024  
26 x 36 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (b),  
2024  
26 x 36 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (c),  
2024  
26 x 36 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (d),  
2024  
26 x 36 cm.



Drawing for Idomeneo (e),  
2024  
26 x 36 cm.



Maquette for Idomeneo,  
2023-4



Drawing for Idomeneo (group),  
2024  
26 x 18 cm.  
(9 drawings)



Installation for Idomeneo, 2024  
metal ring (diameter 180 cm) with  
polypropylene net and  
6 m long polypropylene ropes  
old wooden chair



Boat for Idomeneo, 2024  
wood and white paint



Drawing for Idomeneo (18),  
2023  
29.7 x 21 cm.

ALL WORKS MATERIALS (UNLESS SPECIFIED): WATER-SOLUBLE WAX PASTEL, INK AND THREAD ON PAPER