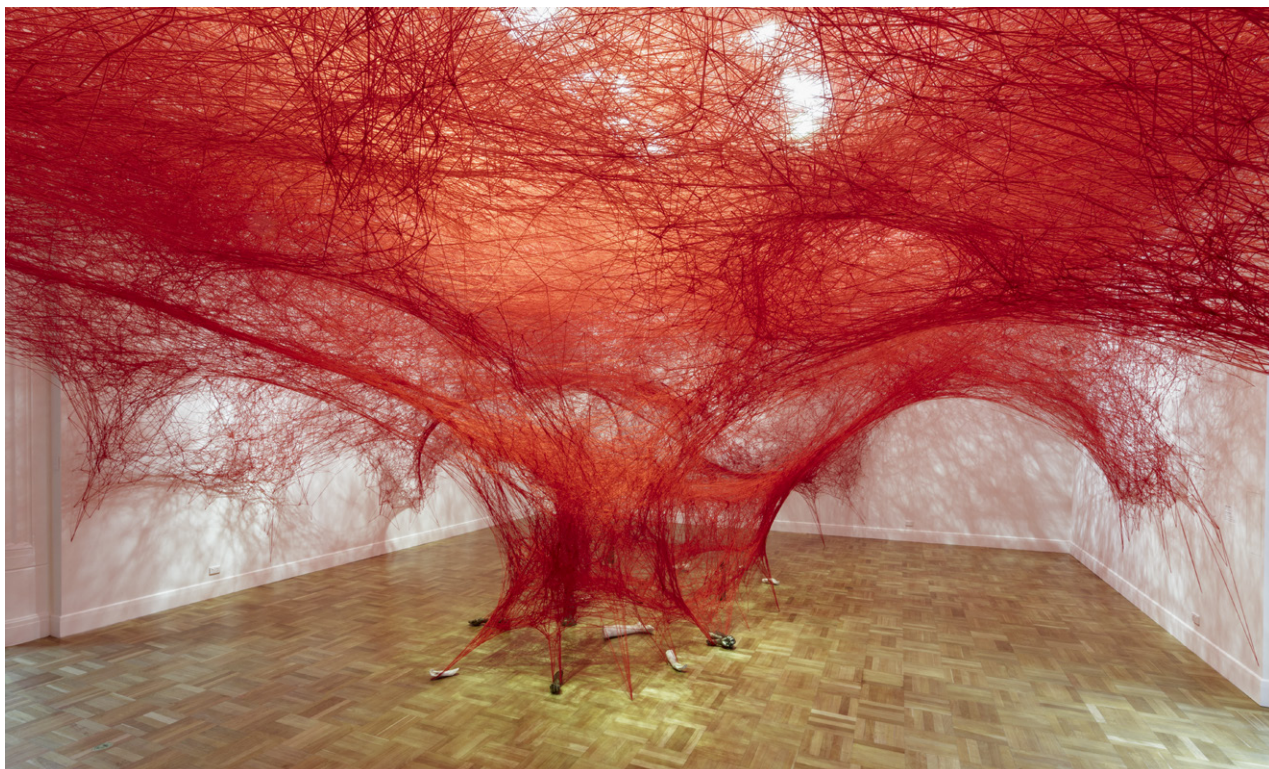


Start at home

Create a 3D Connection Collage

ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



About the Artist

Chiharu Shiota

Chiharu Shiota, born in Osaka Japan in 1972, is a performance and installation artist who uses wool, blood, metal and earth to make her works. Shiota's work explores themes of motherhood, lifecycles and her connections to her personal experience as a woman, an artist and an immigrant. She is renowned for her large-scale installations that have been made using string, sometimes connected to everyday objects such as keys, windows, dresses and boats. These installations have been exhibited around the world including Melbourne, Tokyo, Venice, Madrid and now Adelaide.

About the work

Absence Embodied

Chiharu Shiota's large installation, *Absence Embodied* (2018) is made with 1800 balls of red wool that add up to over 200 kilometers in length. Visitors can walk through this jam-packed, knotty, woven maze, which is on permanent display in the Melrose Wing at the Art Gallery of South Australia. It took Shiota and her team three weeks, working round the clock to carefully string wool from walls and ceilings to create the explosive whirlwind shaped installation. Shiota deeply believes that everything is connected. She chooses red wool to symbolise memories and bloodline connection that flows between the people closest to her. To anchor the work, she has woven around several bronze and plaster casts of her and family members' hands and feet.

image Chiharu Shiota, *Absence Embodied* (2018), Berlin and Adelaide, red wool, bronze, plaster, dimensions variable. Gift of the Gwinnett family through the Art Gallery of South Australia Foundation 2018, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide. Courtesy the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery, installation view: *Absence Embodied*, 2018, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide. Photo: Saul Steed.

Presented by



‘In making the work, sometimes the string gets tangled, or loses tension, or is cut, much like human relationships. Relationships can become tangled, lost or severed.

Red string symbolises the body, blood or relationships between humans. There is an expression in Japanese, *akai-ito de musu bareru*, which means ‘two people whose lives are bound together with a red string’, it describes human connection’

Chiharu Shiota

Materials

- A3 white card
- White paper
- 1 piece of paper and 1 pencil of the same colour
- Lead pencil
- Scissors
- Glue

Take it further

Make your own installation work of art using your collected objects or treasures and wrap wool or string around it. While you are wrapping think of a memory that connects you to this object. When you are finished wrapping, write down or sketch your thoughts on a piece of paper and tie or wrap it around your objects. Arrange the wrapped connections to make a sculptural installation, connecting them together or hang them to make a connection catcher.

Chiharu Shiota's *Absence Embodied* is currently on display in Gallery 14

The Activity

Create a 3D collage that shares your special connections

Chiharu Shiota loves to sketch and is drawn to the idea of everything being connected, especially her family. Who do you feel you are connected to? What treasures do you have that remind you of this connection?

- 1 Bloodline means your heritage, ancestors, family and history. What colour would you chose to represent this? Using your pencil begin to scribble lines all over your A3 white card as many times as you can. Draw with big and small movements, thin and thick lines to fill the page. Then stop!
- 2 Look at the lines you have created. Do they connect and weave like the wool in Shiota's art installation *Absence Embodied*? On a separate piece of paper draw the sentimental treasures you collected using your lead pencil.
- 3 Look at the empty spaces within your scribbles and think about where your treasure drawings will fit. Then cut and glue them in these spaces.
- 4 Cut strips from the coloured paper, then write words that describe feelings or memories that connect you to the person or people that are special to you and your treasure drawings.
- 5 Glue these pieces of paper onto sections of the scribbled drawing to create a 3D sculptural collage of your connections.

We would love to see your work! Ask your parent or carer to post a photo on Instagram and tag the Art Gallery of South Australia. Or you can email your photo to us at public.programs@artgallery.sa.gov.au

@agsa.adelaide #agsastart