



EMYA2026

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
& AWARDS CEREMONY

10-14 JUNE • BILBAO • BIZKAIA

**DISRUPTING THE MUSEUM:
INCLUSION FOR ALL**



DAY 1

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10

- 10:00 - 19:00 REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK**
Venue: Euskararen Etxea and its Basque Language Interpretation Centre
 Agoitz Plaza, 1, Deusto, Bilbao, Bizkaia
- 10:00 - 18:00 PERMANENT EXHIBITION - GUIDED TOUR**
Language: EU/EN
 Individual tours of the exhibition with audioguide are available. EU/ES/EN/FR
 No registration required
- GUIDED WALKING TOURS OF BILBAO**
Meeting point: Palace of the Provincial Council of Bizkaia
 Gran Vía Don Diego López de Haro, 25, Bilbao
Duration:
 10:00 - 13:00 Group 1
 11:00 - 14:00 Group 2
[Pre-registration required →](#)
- 14:00 - 14:45 MY FIRST EUSKARA (BASQUE) CLASS**
 Kaixol
 Join our express class to learn the essentials for getting around the city like a local.
 Come break the ice with Basque!
 No registration required
- 15:00 - 16:00 WORKSHOPS**
Two workshops will be offered simultaneously:
The Oma Forest
 Where Nature Meets Art. Step into Agustín Ibarrola's "Painted Forest" for a one-of-a-kind creative experience. Discover the secrets of Land Art, decode the messages hidden in the trees, and find your inspiration in the heart of the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve.
Euskal Museoa
 Experience the Basque Soul. Step inside the heart of Bilbao's Old Town for a hands-on journey through Basque heritage. From ancient crafts to cultural secrets, discover the traditions that shaped our people in this unique creative workshop.
 No registration required
- 16:00 - 17:00 A DRINK WITH**
 A networking space designed to foster conversation between representatives of Basque and European museums.
[Pre-registration required →](#)
- 17:00 - 17:30 OPEN NETWORKING SPACE**
- 19:00 - 20:30 INFORMAL GATHERING WITH LIGHT REFRESHMENTS**
Venue: Euskal Museoa Bilbao Museo Vasco
 Unamuno Miguel Plaza, 4, Ibaiondo, Bilbao, Bizkaia
Welcome: Sorkunde Aiarza, Director of Euskal Museoa, Iurdana Acasuso, Director of Euskararen Etxea and Joan Seguí, EMYA Judge
 Followed by a live performance of traditional Basque music featuring Korrontzi, folk music band.

INTERNAL EMF/EMYA MEETINGS

Venue: Euskararen Etxea
 Agoitz Plaza, 1, Deusto, Bilbao, Bizkaia

14:00 EMYA Jury and EMF Board of Trustees meeting
16:00 EMF Board of Trustees meeting
17:00 - 18:00 Networking with the National Correspondents

DAY 2

THURSDAY JUNE 11

- 08:30 - 18:00 REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK**
Venue: Euskalduna Conference Centre and Concert Hall
 Abandoibarra Etorb., 4, Abando, Bilbao, Bizkaia
- 09:15 - 09:45 OPENING OF EMYA 2026**
Amina Kravac, Chair, European Museum Forum
Iurdana Acasuso, Director, Euskararen Etxea
Leixuri Arrizabalaga, Minister of Bizkaia for a Basque Language, Culture and Sport
- 09:45 - 10:05 MANCHESTER MUSEUM, WINNER OF EMYA 2025 Manchester, UK**
Introduction: Amina Kravac, Chair, European Museum Forum
- 10:05 - 10:35 KEYNOTE ADDRESS - TBA**
Introduction: Adriana Muñoz, EMF Trustee
- 10:35 - 10:50 COFFEE BREAK**
- 10:50 - 11:00 PRESENTATION OF EMYA NOMINEES AND THEMATIC PANELS**
Introduction: Agnes Aljas, Co-Chair, EMYA Jury
- 11:00 - 12:00 MAKING THE DIFFICULT VISIBLE**
 Museums engaging with rights, resistance, and violent histories share how they confront harm, oppression and struggle without neutrality or silence. Panelists discuss how inclusive curatorial strategies surface fraught narratives and honor lived experience and how museums disrupt institutional comfort by inviting dialogue, accountability and transformation through histories often deemed too difficult to display.
Moderator: Zandra Yeaman, EMYA Judge
National Museum of Resistance and Human Rights, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg
Museum Henry Dunant, Heiden, Switzerland
Obersalzberg Documentation Center, Berchtesgaden, Germany
Seddülbahir Fortress, Çanakkale, Türkiye
- 12:00 - 13:00 A MUSEUM FOR ALL: INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS**
 While museums are open to everyone, the question remains what this truly means in everyday practice: who museums are created for, whose voices are heard within them, and how inclusion can become a sustained, relationship-based way of working rather than a project-based activity.
Moderator: Beat Hächler, EMYA Judge
Villena Museum (MUVI), Villena, Spain
Lisbon Museum - Pimenta Palace, Lisbon, Portugal
Den Gamle By, National Open - Air Museum of Urban History and Culture, Aarhus, Denmark
- 13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH**
- 14:00 - 14:20 TODAY FOR YOU, TOMORROW FOR ME! THE CISA AS A SHARED, INCLUSION AND MUTUAL AID PROJECT WITH THE COMMUNITY**
Patrícia Dos Reis Ramos, Anthropologist, The Alvor Lifeguard Interpretative Centre (CISA), Portimão, Portugal, Winner of the Silletto Prize 2025
Introduction: Daniëlle Kuijten, Co-Chair, EMYA Judge
- 14:20 - 15:20 COMMUNITIES IN CONTROL?**
 Asking what it means to work with or as a community, this panel brings together institutions shaped by grassroots initiatives and those that invite participation. It explores co-creation, care, memory, activism, and disruption, examining how community voices can unsettle institutional norms while enabling museums to empower participation, foster inclusion, and drive social change.
Moderator: Daniëlle Kuijten, Co-Chair, EMYA Jury
Museum of Madness Institute, Trate, Slovenia
Alpenstadtmuseum Sonthofen, Sonthofen, Germany
Tartu City Museum, Tartu, Estonia
Museum of the Rural Civilization of Mendrisiotto, Stabio, Switzerland
- 15:20 - 16:00 COFFEE BREAK**
- 16:00 - 16:20 MUZOO, WINNER OF THE MEYVAERT PRIZE 2025**
La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland
Introduction: Hans Looijen, EMF Trustee
- 16:20 - 17:20 CONNECTING PUBLIC THROUGH THE SENSES**
 We see a growing number of museums offering audiences multisensory experiences, activating sight, sound, smell, touch, and immersion to deepen connection and meaning. The panel discusses how sensory design can enrich interpretation without overwhelming content, and what role do the senses play in shaping memory, empathy, and public engagement.
Moderator: Michał Wiśniewski, EMF Trustee
Sensoria, The House of Fragrances and Flavours Holzminden, Holzminden, Germany
Museum St. John's Hospital, Bruges, Belgium
Samurai Museum Berlin, Berlin, Germany
Galáctica, Arcos de las Salinas, Spain
- 19:30 - 21:30 WELCOME RECEPTION**
Venue: Euskalduna Conference Centre and Concert Hall
Welcome: Iurdana Acasuso, Director of Euskararen Etxea

DAY 3

FRIDAY JUNE 12

- 08:30 - 18:00 REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK**
Venue: Euskalduna Conference Centre and Concert Hall
 Abandoibarra Etorb., 4, Abando, Bilbao, Bizkaia

- 09:00 - 09:20 PLAY AS AN ACT OF CREATIVE RESISTANCE**
Dr Helen Charman, Director, Young V&A, London, UK, Winner of the Council of Europe Museum Prize 2026
Introduction: Ms. Luz Martínez Seijo, Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

- 09:20 - 10:20 EMPOWERING CHILDREN AND YOUTH: NEW APPROACHES**
 This panel discusses how museum exhibitions empower children and young people to go beyond being just visitors, highlighting the practices and methods that support this shift and the challenges or tensions that have emerged along the way. It also considers the impact these exhibitions have had on children, young people, and wider audiences.
Moderator: Agnes Aljas, EMYA Judge
Children's Museum Miiamilla, Tallinn, Estonia
Museum of Play, Espoo, Finland
CERN Science Gateway, Meyrin, Switzerland
YOUNG V&A, London, United Kingdom

- 10:20 - 10:45 COFFEE BREAK**

- 10:45 - 11:15 KEYNOTE ADDRESS - TBA**
Introduction: Iurdana Acasuso, Director, Euskararen Etxea

- 11:15 - 12:15 COLLECTIONS RECONNECTED: AUDIENCES AND ENGAGEMENT**
 How do we transform stored objects into shared experiences that invite care, curiosity, and long-term engagement? This panel explores how collections can be reconnected with audiences through participatory practices, digital tools, and local storytelling. The speakers share lessons drawn from diverse contexts.
Moderator: Joan Seguí, EMYA Judge
Musée du Ski - Le Boéchet, Les Bois, Switzerland
Museum of Ethnography, Budapest, Hungary
MuMAPS. Museum of Art Mechanics and Heritage, Sainte-Croix, Switzerland
Museum of Engineering and Technology in Krakow, Krakow, Poland

- 12:15 - 13:15 LUNCH**

- 13:15 - 13:35 SILVER LININGS ON THE BOSPHORUS**
Ümit Mesci, Curator, Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, Istanbul, Türkiye, Winner of the Portimão Museum Prize 2025
Introduction: Pedro Branco, European Museum Forum

- 13:35 - 14:35 TRANSFORMING ART, DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE MUSEUMS**
 The museums expand knowledge and stimulate debate about the impact of architecture, design and art on people's lives. What strategies do museums use to facilitate dialogue around controversial or evolving topics in architecture, design and art? How do museums collaborate with architects, designers, and artists to create meaningful experiences for diverse audiences?
Moderator: Dominika Mroczkowska-Rusiniak, EMYA Judge
Lahti Museum of Visual Arts Malva, Lahti, Finland
MUDE - Design Museum, Lisbon, Portugal
Kunsthaus Baselland, Basel, Switzerland

- 14:35 - 14:50 COFFEE BREAK**

- 14:50 - 15:50 UNEARTHING THE PAST FOR THE PRESENT**
 The past gains new meanings when layered histories are brought to light in ways that resonate with contemporary audiences—whether through bodily practices, everyday life, community memory, or environmental and social questions. The panel considers how material heritage, research, and experiential interpretation can work together to connect past experiences with present realities and future oriented perspectives.
Moderator: Beat Hächler, EMYA Judge
Pile Dwellings Unteruhldingen, Uhldingen-Mühlhofen, Germany
State Archaeological Collection, Munich, Germany
Zeyrek Çiniil Hamam Museum, Istanbul, Türkiye
Mining Museum, La Union, Spain

- 15:50 - 16:50 ECHOES BEYOND OBJECTS: CURATING THE INTANGIBLE**
 How do museums narrate intangible heritage through sound, memory, language, and lived experience beyond objects? In this panel the museums talk about their approaches and explore how curatorial practices can make the unseen and unheard meaningful to audiences, while remaining rooted in place, community, and contemporary relevance.
Moderator: Nayat Karaköse, incoming EMYA Judge
Research Center - Tsitsanis Museum, Trikala, Greece
Latvian National Museum of Literature and Music, Riga, Latvia
La Murette - espaces littéraires, Pully, Switzerland
Kaj Munk Museum, Ulfborg, Denmark

- 19:00 - 21:00 RECEPTION**
Venue: Athletic Club Museoa, San Mames Stadium
 Rafael Moreno Pitxitxi s/n, Puerta 20, 48013 Bilbao, Bizkaia
Welcome: Léontine Meijer Van Mensch, EMF Trustee
 Followed by a Basque dance performance. From tradition to contemporary.

DAY 4

SATURDAY JUNE 13

- 08:30 - 18:00 REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK**
Venue: Euskalduna Conference Centre and Concert Hall
 Abandoibarra Etorb., 4, Abando, Bilbao, Bizkaia

- 09:40 - 10:00 WHEN RECOGNITION BECOMES A MIRROR**
Nini Sanadiradze, Winner of the Kenneth Hudson Award for Institutional Courage and Professional Integrity 2025 and Former Director General of the Union of Tbilisi Museums, Tbilisi, Georgia
Introduction: Léontine Meijer Van Mensch, EMF Trustee

- 10:00 - 11:00 PANEL DISCUSSION: MUSEUM RESISTANCE**
Moderator: Sharon Heal, EMF Trustee

- 11:00 - 11:15 COFFEE BREAK**

- 11:15 - 11:30 PRESENTATION OF EMYA2027**

- 11:30 - 12:15 CERTIFICATES CEREMONY**
 The European Museum Forum will formally present certificates to all nominated museums.
Presented by: Dominika Mroczkowska-Rusiniak, EMYA Judge and Karmele Barandiaran, the EMF National Correspondent for Spain
 Group photograph of all nominated museums.

- 12:30 - 13:30 LUNCH**

- 13:30 - 14:30 WORKSHOPS BY FORMER AWARD WINNERS - TBA**
 Registration for the workshops will take place onsite, at the registration desk, and on a first-come, first-served basis.

FREE AFTERNOON FOR PARTICIPANTS

- 18:00 - 20:00 EMYA2026 AWARDS CEREMONY**
Ceremony venue: Euskalduna Conference Centre and Concert Hall
Dress code: Semi-formal
Master of Ceremony: Mathieu Viau-Courville, EMYA Judge

- 21:00 - 23:00 EMYA GALA DINNER**
Venue: Guggenheim Museum Bilbao
 Winner of the European Museum of the Year Award 2000
 Abandoibarra Etorb., 2, Abando, Bilbao, Bizkaia

INTERNAL EMF/EMYA MEETINGS

Venue: Euskalduna Conference Centre and Concert Hall
 Abandoibarra Etorb., 4, Abando, Bilbao, Bizkaia

13:00 EMF National Correspondents, EMYA Jury and EMF Board of Trustees meeting
14:30 EMYA Jury and EMF Board of Trustees meeting
15:00 EMYA Jury meeting

DAY 5

SUNDAY JUNE 14

OPTIONAL TOURS IN BIZKAIA

[Pre-registration required →](#)

BILBAO AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT: THE CITY FROM ITS VERY HEART

Want to discover the soul of Bilbao? Step on board and sail along the River Nervión, the waterway that shaped the city's past and its modern identity. There's no better way to explore Bilbao than by following the river that runs through it.

Duration: 10:45 - 12:00

Meeting point: Plo Baroja Plaza, 1, Bilbao

BIZKAIA OF IRON AND WOOL: A JOURNEY TO OUR ROOTS

Discover the essence of Bizkaia on a journey that transports you into the past. Be amazed by the magic of La Encartada Fabrika Museoa in Balmaseda. This original 19th century mill is preserved exactly as it once operated, — with its machinery and equipment intact and in their original positions. As one of the world's most complete collections of historic textile technology, it allows visitors to experience the authentic sights, sounds, and even smells of a working mill from that era. Continue your route at the Basque Mining Museum in Gallarta. Here you can explore the land's major iron deposits, learn about the demanding work of miners and metalworkers, and trace the evolution of mining techniques and industrial technology up to the present day. See how the landscapes, tools, and stories that shaped our mining heritage come to life. Two distinct museums, woven by wool and forged in iron, that together define the resilient soul of the Basque identity.

Duration: 9:00 - 13:00

Meeting point: Euskalduna Conference Centre and Concert Hall

EXPLORING TXAKOLI HERITAGE AND BASQUE SEAFARING CULTURE

Discover two essential expressions of Bizkaia's heritage with a combined visit to the Txakoli Museum-Txakolingunea in Bakio and the Arrantzaleen Museoa in Bermeo. Begin by exploring the history, evolution, and production of txakoli, learning how this unique wine has shaped local identity. Then continue to Bermeo's historic Erçilla Tower, where the Arrantzaleen Museoa offers an engaging look into the traditions, daily life, and maritime culture of Basque fishing communities through its exhibitions, guided visits, and activities.

Duration: 10:00 - 18:00

Meeting point: Euskalduna Conference Centre and Concert Hall