



EMYA2026

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
& AWARDS CEREMONY

10-14 JUNE • BILBAO • BIZKAIA

**DISRUPTING THE MUSEUM:
INCLUSION FOR ALL**



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 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: registration@euskararenetxea.eus

14:00 - 14:45 MY FIRST EUSKARA (BASQUE) CLASS

Kaixo!

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: registration@euskararenetxea.eus

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 Krvavac, 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 Krvavac, Chair, European Museum Forum

10:05 - 10:35 KEYNOTE ADDRESS – TBD

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

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, 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

08:30 - 17:00 REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK

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09:00 - 09:20 PLAY AS AN ACT OF CREATIVE REBELLION,

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 Getaway, 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 Archeological Collection, Munich, Germany
Zeyrek Çinili 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: La Campa de los Ingleses, San Mames Stadium
Rafael Moreno Pitxitxi s/n, 48013 Bilbao, Bizkaia

Welcome: Léontine Meijer Van Mensch, EMF Trustee

Followed by a Basque dance performance. From tradition to contemporary.

08:30 - 17:00 REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK

Venue: Euskalduna Conference Centre and Concert Hall
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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 EMYA 2027****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 Kar mele Barandiaran, the EMF National Correspondent for Spain

Group photograph of all nominated museums

12:30 - 13:30 LUNCH**FREE AFTERNOON FOR PARTICIPANTS****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.

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

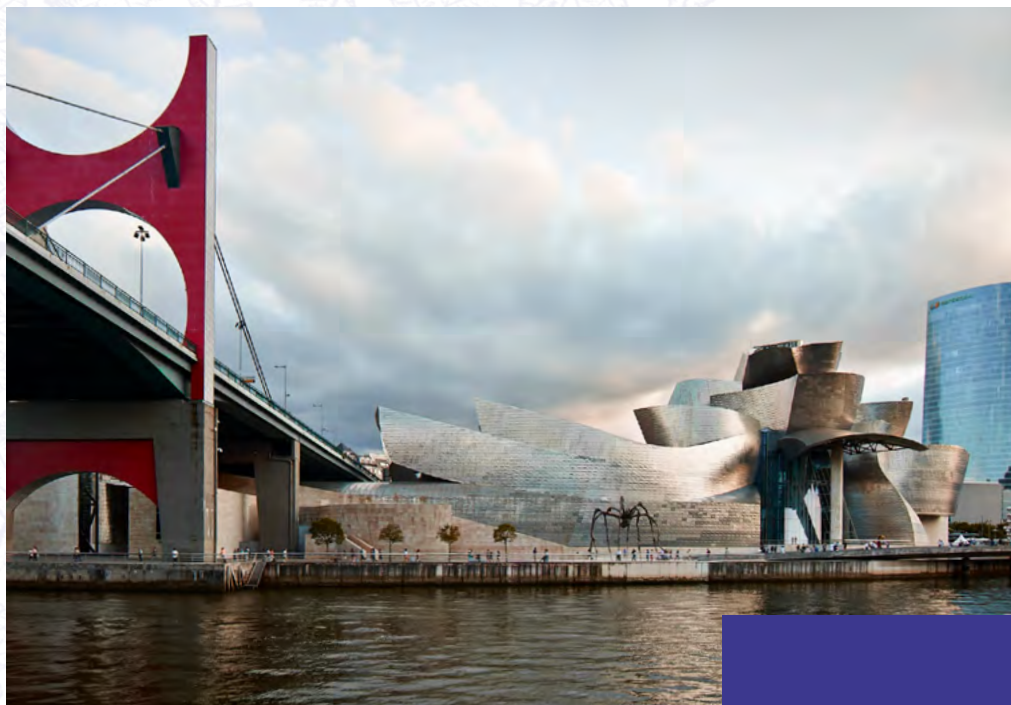
INTERNAL EMF/EMYA MEETINGS

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



OPTIONAL TOURS IN BISCAY

Pre-registration required: registration@euskararenetxea.eus

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: Pío 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

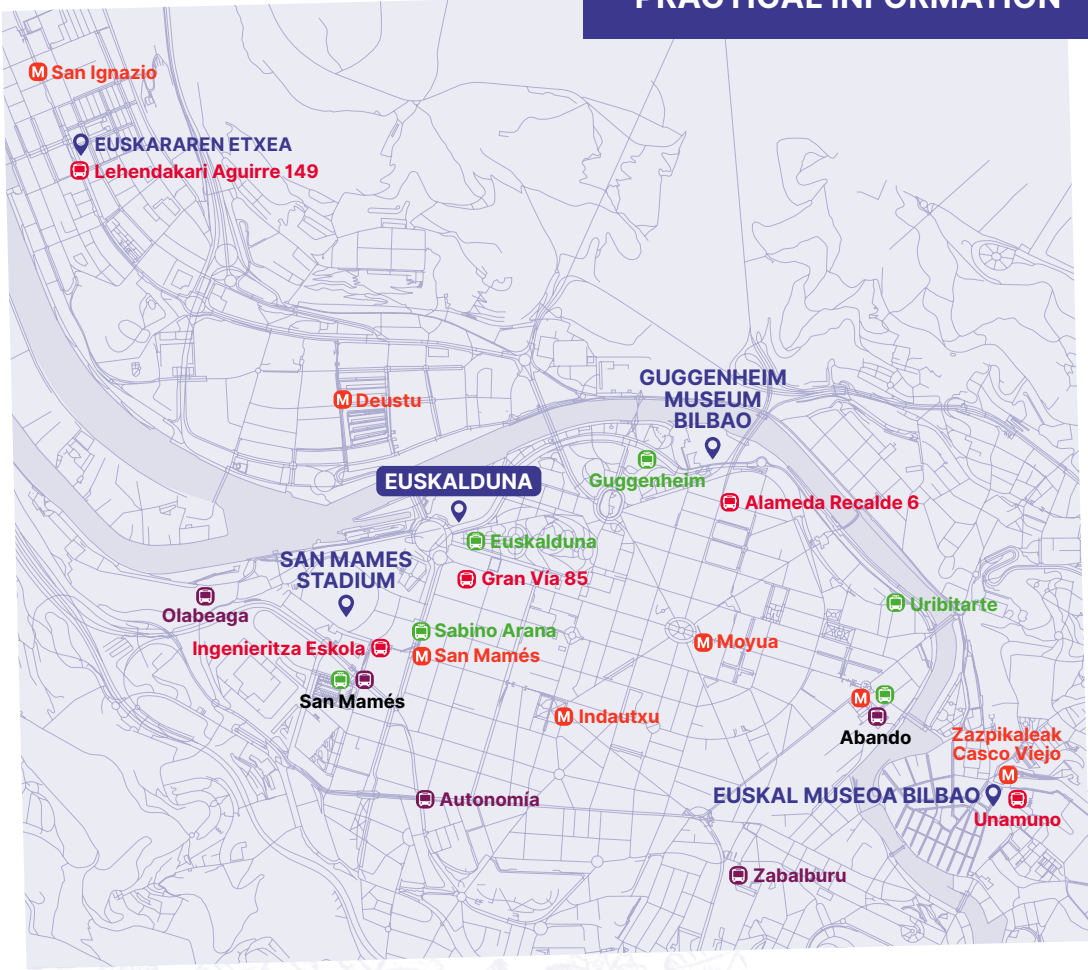
Meeting point: Euskalduna Conference Centre and Concert Hall

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 Ercilla 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



M Metro Bilbao

T Tranvía

R Renfe Cercanías C1-C2

B Bilbobus

Gran Vía 85 **28** **56** **62** **A3**

Lehendakari Aguirre 149 **10** **13** **18** **71**

Alameda Recalde 6 **A3223** **A3250** **A3516** **A3518** **A3527**

Ingenieritza Eskola **A3151** **A3340** **A3414**

Unamuno **A2** **A5**

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