



# 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](mailto:registration@euskararenetxea.eus)

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

**Venue:** Euskararen Etxea  
[Agoitz Plaza, 1, Deusto, Bilbao, Bizkaia](#)

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**

**Venue:** Euskararen Etxea  
[Agoitz Plaza, 1, Deusto, Bilbao, Bizkaia](#)

**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** **INFORMAL NETWORKING**

**Venue:** Euskararen Etxea  
[Agoitz Plaza, 1, Deusto, Bilbao, Bizkaia](#)

A networking space designed to foster conversation between representatives of Basque and European museums.

**Pre-registration required:** [registration@euskararenetxea.eus](mailto:registration@euskararenetxea.eus)

**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

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 - EMPATHY, TRUST AND BELONGING IN MANCHESTER**

Esme Ward, Director, Manchester Museum, United Kingdom  
 European Museum of the Year 2025

**Introduction:** Amina Krvavac, Chair, European Museum Forum

10:05 - 10:35

**KEYNOTE - AN UNWANTED GIFT: CURATING THE PRESENT**

Ujammiugaq Engell, Museum Leader, Nuutoqaq – Nuuk Lokalmuseum, Greenland

**Introduction:** Sharon Heal, 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 Centre**, 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 Jury

**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, EMYA Judge

**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 EMYA X MUZOO: AWARDS CHANGE EVERYTHING... OR DO THEY?**

Xavier Huther, Director, Muzoo, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland  
Winner of the Meyvaert Museum Prize for Environmental Sustainability 2025

**Introduction:** Hans Looijen, EMF Trustee



**08:30 - 17:00 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 REBELLION**

Dr Helen Charman, Director, Young V&A, London, United Kingdom  
 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 - CARING FOR LIFE**

Manuel Borja Villel, Art Historian and Curator, Spain

**Introduction:** Adriana Muñoz, EMF Trustee

**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 in Budapest**, Budapest, Hungary  
**MuMAPS. Museum of Mechanical Art 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

**La Unión Mining Museum**, La Unión, 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 Centre – 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  
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

The rise of populist politics across the world is a cause for concern. This panel looks at how museums and museum workers are dealing with contemporary challenges and bringing communities together to tackle divisions and polarisation.

**Panel guests:** Dušan Buran, Researcher, Slovak Academy of Sciences Bratislava, Institute of Art History and Adele Patrick, Co-founder and co-director, Glasgow Women's Library

**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 Karmele Barandiaran, 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**

Registration for the workshops will take place onsite, at the registration desk, and on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **THE FUTURE IS COLLABORATIVE: EXPLORING THE PRINCIPLES OF CO-PRODUCTION IN THE MUSEUM**

By Manchester Museum, United Kingdom - Winner of EMYA 2025

**Facilitated by:** Esme Ward, Director; Georgina Young, Head of Collections and Exhibitions; and Sam Kalubowila, Head of Learning and Participation.

A participatory workshop exploring lessons learned and how museums can work more collaboratively and equitably with communities and partners.

### **COLLABORATIVE HORIZONS: MUSEUMS IN DIALOGUE**

By Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, Türkiye - Winner of the Portimão Museum Prize for Welcoming, Inclusion and Belonging 2025

**Facilitated by:** Ümit Mesci, Curator

This workshop invites museums into dialogue and collaborative exploration, identifying shared questions and common challenges in contemporary museology. Participants will collectively develop ideas that may grow into future partnerships, joint programming, or funding initiatives, fostering connections that extend beyond the conference.

### **FROM BIOGRAPHICAL OBJECTS TO “MUSEUM” OBJECTS - THE PLACE OF NARRATIVES AND THE PURPOSES OF THEIR (RE)CREATION IN THE COMMUNITY**

By The Alvor Lifeguard Interpretative Centre (CISA), Portimão, Portugal  
Winner of the Silletto Prize for Community Participation and Engagement 2025

**Facilitated by:** Ana Patrícia dos Reis Ramos, Anthropologist

What object in your museum symbolises a transformative narrative? This workshop invites participants to reflect on such objects and to imagine an activity that could be developed with a community or group based on the stories they carry.

### **EMPOWERMENT IN TIMES OF CRISES: WHAT ROLE FOR MUSEUMS?**

By MUZOO, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland — Winner of the Meyvaert Museum Prize for Environmental Sustainability 2025

**Facilitated by:** Sara Tocchetti, Science Communicator

Museums are among the most trusted institutions. In times of social and environmental crises, this workshop explores what empowerment practices museums might develop—or avoid—through shared examples and experiences.

18:00 - 20:00

## **EMYA2026 AWARDS CEREMONY**

**Ceremony venue:** Euskalduna Conference Centre and Concert Hall

**Dress code:** Semi-formal

**Performance:** An artistic composition showcasing the journey of Basque tradition from its origins to the avant-garde, featuring the Kukai dance company.

**Master of ceremony:** Mathieu Viau-Courville, EMYA Judge

**Welcome:** Amina Krvavac, Chair, European Museum Forum  
Elixabete Etxanobe, President of the Provincial Council of Biscay

### **The meaning of the Council of Europe Museum Prize**

Presented by Ms. Luz Martínez-Seijo, Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

### **Introduction to the awards**

Presented by Agnes Aljas, Co-Chair, EMYA Jury

### **Special commendation certificates**

Presented by EMYA Judges: Dominika Mroczkowska-Rusiniak and Joan Seguí

### **The Museum Prize for Environmental Sustainability**

Presented by Léontine Meijer-Van Mensch, EMF Trustee

### **Silletto Prize for Community Participation and Engagement**

Presented by Carol Jackson, Silletto Trust

### **Portimão Museum Prize for Welcoming, Inclusion and Belonging**

Presented by Álvaro Miguel Bila, Mayor, Municipality of Portimão

### **Kenneth Hudson Award for Institutional Courage and Professional Integrity**

Presented by Amina Krvavac, Chair, European Museum Forum

### **European Museum of the Year Award**

Presented by Danielle Kuijten, Co-Chair, EMYA Jury

## **GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF AWARD WINNERS**

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

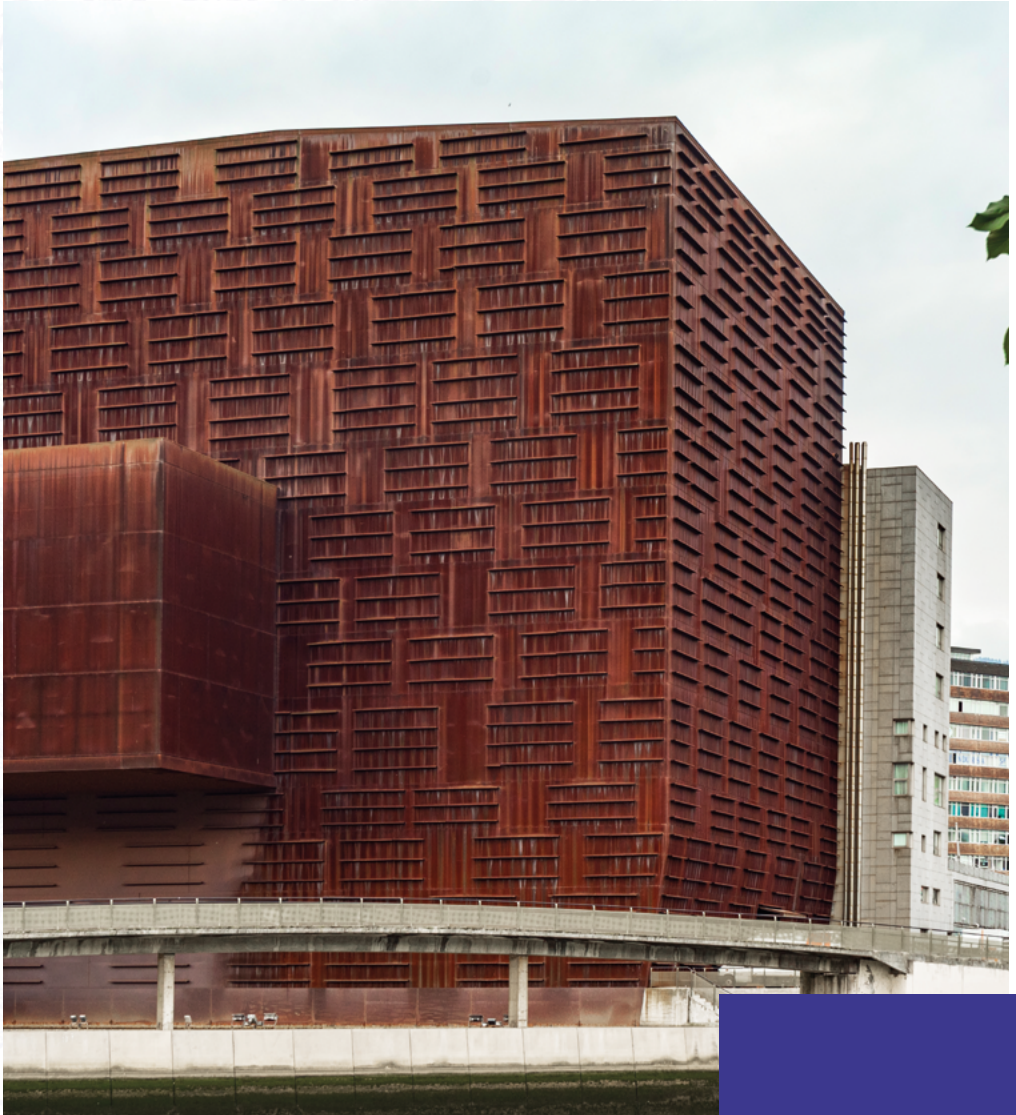
## INTERNAL EMF/EMYA MEETINGS

**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](mailto: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** Tram

**R** Renfe Cercanias 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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