



Palazzo
Chigi Zondadari

CORTEMPORANEA #5

NATSUKO UCHINO

Weaving Lines Stepping on Folds

curated by Fiammetta Griccioli and Cloé Perrone

17 May – 8 December 2026

Fondazione Palazzo Chigi Zondadari, Siena



Photo: Natsuko Uchino

Siena, May 16 2026

The fifth edition of CORTEMPORANEA presents *Weaving Lines Stepping on Folds*, the first solo exhibition in Italy by Japanese artist Natsuko Uchino, curated by Fiammetta Griccioli and Cloé Perrone, opening on 16 May 2026 at Palazzo Chigi Zondadari.

Natsuko Uchino is an interdisciplinary artist living and working in the South of France. Her practice brings together agriculture and permaculture with convivial situations, through an approach that reinterprets artisanal techniques, subsistence economies and vernacular culture. She frequently collaborates with artists, local communities and practitioners. Her work takes the form of installations and performances that unite sculptural materials, functional objects and living matter.

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Weaving Lines Stepping on Folds evokes the layered nature of culture – exchanges and echoes interwoven like the threads of a fabric. Uchino engages with the artworks, furnishings and ornamental heritage that inhabit Palazzo Chigi Zondadari, entering in dialogue with the histories and traditions they hold. Within this context, the works investigate the capacity of materials and motifs to carry cultural memory across geographies and traditions, raising questions around landscape, perception and the navigation of real and imagined spaces.

For this exhibition Uchino has conceived a new site-specific body of work in close collaboration with local artisans from Siena and its surrounding villages, drawing on the traditions of weaving, embroidery and basketry with materials rooted in the territory.

In the loggia of the central courtyard, the artist presents *Weaving Lines Stepping on Folds* (2026), a large stick structure, made on site together with Fabio Guerrini, woodworker, gardener and custodian of the craft of basketry in the Sienese region. The work connects two traditions: that of local artisanal craft and the navigational stick charts of the indigenous peoples of the Marshall Islands – instruments of orientation passed down empirically, built with wooden rods and shells to map ocean currents and sailing routes. United by the oral transmission of knowledge and the materiality of gesture, both traditions explore how landscape is mapped, traversed and imagined. Working with sticks and cords, the piece reflects on how space is articulated through lines of drawing and passages.

Tanin Toison (2026) and *In Utero* (2025), obtained through natural dyeing techniques, alongside *Nos Cabanes* (2026) – a network of knots woven on site that frays toward the ground – and *Textile Écru-Beige* (2026), a series of textiles embroidered by a group of women from the Sienese association "Crea&Dimostra", unfold through the space like a moving curtain opening toward Piazza del Campo. The works resonate with the stick structure in the courtyard, echoing its formal tension and material plasticity.

Finally, *Phonocène (flûtes)* (2026), a new sound installation, is conceived and created with sound designer and foley artist Fabien Bourdier and artist and ceramicist Olivier Chouteau, extending shared research developed through *Terres sonores*, a course they co-teach at TALM Art School. Composed of ceramic tubes activated by modulating air, the work explores the amplification capacities of pottery and the sonic qualities of clay, both material and symbolic. The inspiration for this piece is diverse musical traditions such as the Asian mouth organ as well as the polyrhythmic language and songs of the Pygmies, whose layering of high and low frequencies becomes a spatial composition reverberating through the chambers of the Palazzo.

On the opening day, Saturday May 16, from 5pm, Natsuko Uchino participates in *Planting Sculptures, Sculpting Plants* at Villa Geggiano, in the Sienese countryside, a project with Mélanie Bordas & Martin Planchaud, Daniel Dewar & Gregory Gicquel, curated by Marianna Vecellio.



Natsuko Uchino (b. 1983, Kumamoto, Japan) is an interdisciplinary artist living and working in the South of France. Her practice brings together agriculture and permaculture with convivial artisanal production, working through craft and manual traditions, subsistence economies and vernacular culture. She frequently collaborates with artists, local communities and practitioners, giving form of installations and performances that unite sculptural materials, functional objects and living matter. After studying at Cooper Union (2007) and completing the research program at CCA Kitakyushu (2012), Uchino has taught at TALM Le Mans since 2017, where she co-founded MAGMA. Recent exhibitions include *Fiction Theory Basket*, Château de Rochechouart (2024); *Mutual Aid*, Castello di Rivoli (2024); *Diplomaties terrestres*, Centre International d'Art et du Paysage, Île de Vassivière (2023); *Faire communs*, Maison des Arts Georges et Claude Pompidou, Cajarc (2020). In 2023 she participated in EVA International, the Contemporary Art Biennial in Limerick, Ireland. In 2017 she participated in LUMA Days at LUMA Arles in collaboration with IdeasCity of the New Museum, New York. Her work is in the collections of the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris and Castello di Rivoli. In 2026 she received the MGM Discoveries Art Prize at Art Basel Hong Kong.

CORTEMPORANEA, initiated in 2022 by Flavio Misciattelli, President of the Fondazione Palazzo Chigi Zondadari, has established itself as a platform for dialogue between contemporary art and historical heritage through site-specific commissions to Italian and international artists. After editions dedicated to Pietro Ruffo (2022), Paolo William Tamburella (2023) and Zhanna Kadyrova (2024), from 2025 Flavio Misciattelli has invited Fiammetta Griccioli and Cloé Perrone as visiting curators - beginning with the exhibition of Bianca Bondi (2025).

Palazzo Chigi Zondadari, commissioned by Cardinal Antonfelice Zondadari (1655 – 1737) and his brother Bonaventura (1652 – 1719), has been the family's Sienese residence since 1724 and was the last palace to be built in Piazza del Campo in Siena. The building features a linear architecture with five rows of windows, an internal courtyard, and an elegant grand staircase. Among its interiors, the piano nobile is of greatest interest, with its succession of salons and galleries, frescoed ceilings, and collection of artworks.

The **Casa-Museo** (house-museum) - open by appointment only - holds treasures of art and architecture, including frescoes by Marco Benefial, Placido Costanzi, and Giuseppe Colignon, tempera paintings on canvas depicting architectural views inspired by the Bibbiena family and Giovanni Battista Marchetti, known as "Pianpianino," as well as the rich Chigi Zondadari collection.



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Opening hours

Courtyard: Monday - Friday 8am – 7pm Casa

Casa-Museo: open by appointment only

prenotazioni@palazzochigizondadari.com

Guided tours include CORTEMPORANEA and the Casa Museo by reservation only.

www.palazzochigizondadari.com

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Communications and PR

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