

Sheila Hicks
Hatano and Bill, Linked Destinies

November 1-15, 2025

galerie frank elbaz and Shibunkaku

For her solo presentation at Shibunkaku (Tokyo, Japan), Sheila Hicks has prepared a selection of works that respond to the spirit of the space—its distinctive architecture, material palette, and atmosphere. The exhibition includes pieces ranging from the intimate scale of her framed *Minimes* to larger thread panels and a sculptural installation of boules, offering a compelling overview of the artist's multifaceted practice.

Hicks has dedicated this exhibition to a deeply personal story of friendship within her own family. In the early 1950s, while studying at the university, her brother, Bill Hicks, formed a close bond with a Japanese student named Hatano. In the fraught post-war climate, few were willing to share a room with Hatano, but Bill chose to do so—an act of empathy that marked the beginning of a lifelong friendship. Over the years, their paths remained closely intertwined.

This presentation also reflects the enduring presence of Hicks's work in Japan, where she has exhibited in both institutional and public settings. Her first major installation dates back to the 1990s at the Fuji Cultural Center, with the most recent, in 2018, located at the Tri-Seven building in Tokyo.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a new essay on Sheila Hicks by Kenjiro Okazaki, offering an in-depth perspective on the artist's practice.

Shibunkaku Ginza

Ichibankan-Building

5-3-12 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0061, Japan

Tel: +81-3-3289-0001

November 1-15, 2025 *Closed on Sundays and public holidays

10am - 6pm

Sheila Hicks (born 1934, Hastings, USA; lives and works in Paris since the 1960s)

Since the late 1950s, Sheila Hicks has produced work that resists easy categorisation. Knotting, wrapping, folding, twisting, stacking—using wool, linen, and cotton—she has continuously challenged conventional artistic categories and their hierarchical relationships.

A student of Josef Albers at Yale, Hicks is both the heir to a Modernist spirit and a textile practice rooted in pre-Columbian America. Her choice of textiles stems from their ubiquity in daily life: from clothing to furniture, interior design, and even the canvas itself—the traditional support of painting. Textiles allow her works to remain in flux, taking on different forms with each presentation.

Ductile and tactile, Hicks's work occupies a unique position in contemporary art. It merges modernist formalism with non-Western traditions, embraces colour as play, and preserves a vital openness in the work.

In August 2025, Sheila Hicks opened a solo exhibition at SFMOMA, featuring a new site-specific installation. Simultaneously, several of her major works are on view in an exhibition organized by the Pinakothek der Moderne at Herrenchiemsee Palace, running through October 2025. In September 2025, Hicks is also opening a new exhibition at the Musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac in Paris.