

Kinku Zinkunegi's Remarks upon receiving the 2023 Al Erquiaga Bizi Emankorra Award:



First of all, thank you very much! Thank you, thank you, thank you very much! Again, thank you very much, I'm getting emotional. It has really been a gift to work with you all over the years. As I've always said, the Basque teachers do a lot of work that is often not very appreciated, and in some cases, "los de Euskara," (Basque teachers and students) are isolated. They do amazing work and are often overlooked. Today, the most valuable activity in Basque clubs is Basque instruction. Yes, there are a lot of dancers, and many sing in choirs, but, the most valuable are the Basque teachers. I met Philippe in San Francisco in 2000, when he helped set up the computers there with the *Hezinet* program, and that was the first time we worked together. Thank you to Martin, you have been a wonderful friend throughout this process, thank you too to Izaskun Kortazar, Itxaso Cayero, Aitor Inarra, Sonia Castañon, Ziortza, and Valerie Etcharren, it has truly been a gift working with you all. *Benetan eskerrik asko!*