

Press release, the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 2020

**Christo, The Centre des Monuments Nationaux and The Centre Pompidou  
announce the postponement of *L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE, WRAPPED (PROJECT FOR  
PARIS, PLACE DE L'ÉTOILE-CHARLES DE GAULLE)***

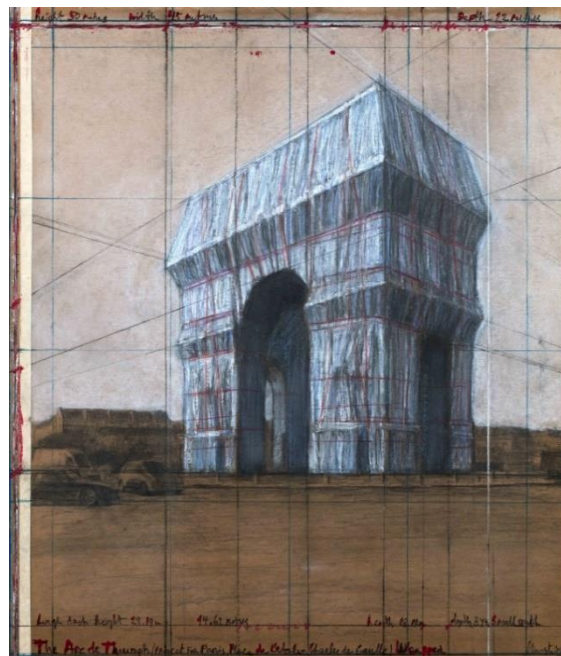
**to September 18 – October 3, 2021.**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Christo, The Centre des Monuments Nationaux and The Centre Pompidou have jointly decided to postpone, by one year, *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped*, initially planned for the fall 2020. **The new dates are: Saturday, September 18- Sunday, October 3, 2021.**

The exhibition at The Centre Pompidou *Christo and Jeanne-Claude. Paris! -* which was to open this March and present the Parisian years of the artists' work, as well as their iconic project *The Pont-Neuf Wrapped Paris, 1975-1985* - will open as soon as The Centre Pompidou is able to welcome visitors again.

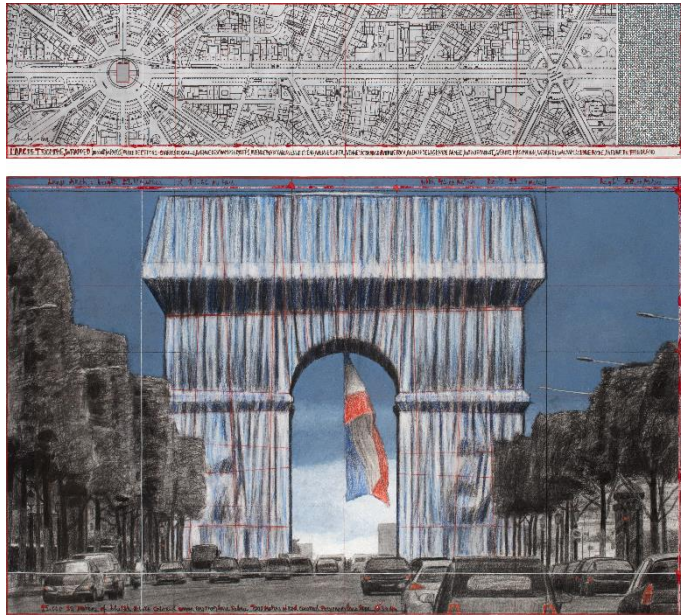
**Images of the project *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped (Project for Paris,  
Place de l'Etoile – Charles de Gaulle)***

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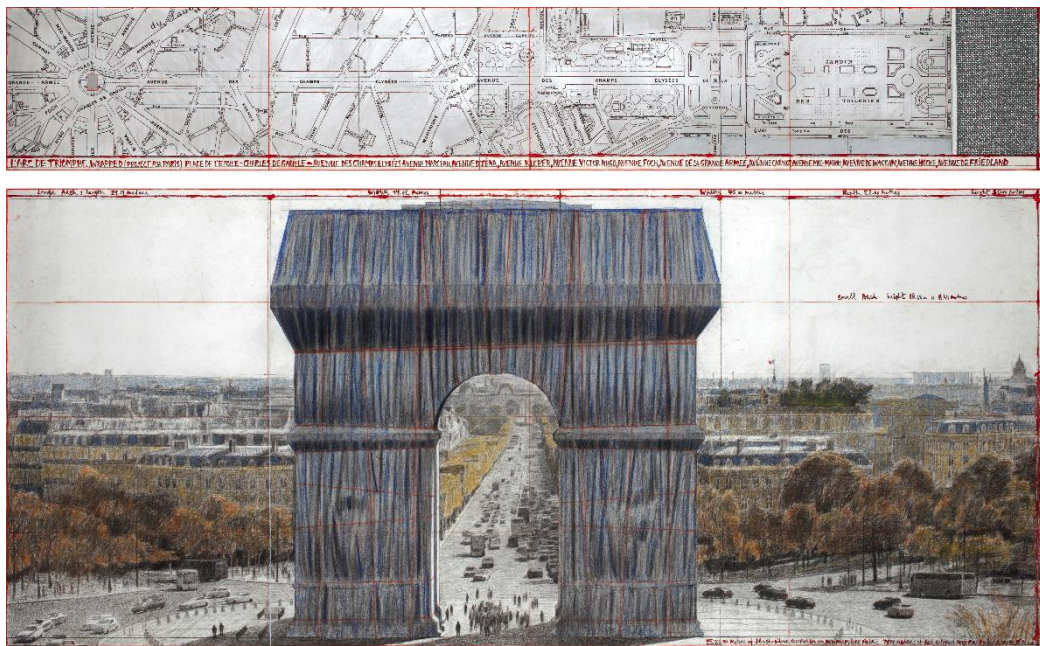
Christo - *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped (Project for Paris, Place de l'Etoile – Charles de Gaulle)*

Drawing, 2018, 30 1/2 x 26 1/4" (77.5 x 66.7 cm), pencil, charcoal, pastel, wax crayon, enamel paint and tape on brown board, photo: André Grossmann, © 2018 Christo



Christo - *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped (Project for Paris, Place de l'Etoile – Charles de Gaulle)*

Drawing, 2019, in two parts: 38 x 165 cm and 106,6 x 165 cm (15 x 65" and 42 x 65"), pencil, charcoal, wax crayon, pastel, enamel paint, fabric sample and map, photo: André Grossmann, © Christo 2019



Christo - *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped (Project for Paris, Place de l'Etoile – Charles de Gaulle)*

Drawing, 2020, in two parts: 38 x 244 cm and 106.6 x 244 cm (15 x 96" and 42 x 96"), pencil, charcoal, pastel, wax crayon, enamel paint, map and fabric sample, photo: André Grossmann, © Christo 2020

## About the artists

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**Christo** (Christo Vladimirov Javacheff (born in 1935 in Gabrovo, Bulgaria) and his late wife **Jeanne-Claude** (Jeanne-Claude Marie Denat-de Guillebon, born in 1935 in Casablanca, Morocco, died in 2009 in New York City, USA) are among the most famous artists in the world.

After studying at the Fine Arts Academy in Sofia, Christo fled Bulgaria and settled in Paris in 1958, attracted to the city's aura and its dynamic art scene. Just a few months after his arrival, he met Jeanne-Claude, the adopted daughter of French General Jacques de Guillebon, who would become his wife and artistic partner. The artists began their collaboration in 1961 and settled permanently in New York in 1964.

The seven-year period Christo and Jeanne-Claude spent living and working in Paris (1958-1964) was in many respects an essential part of Christo's artistic evolution. Today, this prolific period seems formative to his art. Christo and Jeanne-Claude conceived interventions throughout the city, from statues shrouded in fabric to the ambitious Pont-Neuf Wrapped (1975-1985), which took ten years to realize. Their projects for the City of Light include:

- Project for *Wrapping a Public Building*, 1961
- Project for *Wrapping of the École Militaire*, 1961
- *Wall of Oil Barrels - The Iron Curtain, Rue Visconti*, 1961-62 (realized)
- Project for *Wrapping of the Arc de Triomphe*, 1962
- *Wrapped Statue, Place du Trocadéro*, 1964 (realized)
- Project for *Wrapped Statue of Louis XIII, Place des Vosges*, 1967
- *112 Oil Barrels Structure, Palais de Tokyo, Paris*, 1968 (realized)
- *Wrapped Trees (Project for Avenue des Champs Élysées and Rond-Point des Champs Élysées in Paris)*, 1969
- *Wrapped Bridge, Project for the Pont Alexandre III*, 1972
- *The Pont-Neuf Wrapped*, 1975-1985 (realized)

Their large-scale projects, realized around the world, include *Wrapped Coast*, Little Bay, Sydney, Australia, 1968–69; *Valley Curtain*, Rifle, Colorado, 1970–72; *Running Fence*, Sonoma and Marin Counties, California, 1972–76; *Surrounded Islands*, Biscayne Bay, Miami, Florida, 1980–83; *The Pont-Neuf Wrapped*, Paris, 1975–85; *The Umbrellas*, Japan–USA, 1984–91; *Wrapped Reichstag*, Berlin, 1971–95; *Wrapped Trees*, Riehen, Switzerland, 1997–98; *The Gates*, Central Park, New York City, 1979–2005; *The Floating Piers*, Lake Iseo, Italy, 2014–16; and *The London Mastaba*, Hyde Park, London, 2016-2018. Their work is represented in museums and galleries worldwide, including the MoMA, the Guggenheim Museum and the Metropolitan Museum in New York, the Tate Gallery in London and the Centre Pompidou in Paris.

## About the exhibition “Christo and Jeanne-Claude. Paris!” at the Centre Pompidou

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The Centre Pompidou is organizing a thematic exhibition to Christo and Jeanne-Claude, in its Gallery 2.

Sophie Duplaix, chief curator of contemporary collections at the Musée national d'art moderne, is curating the exhibition in close collaboration with Christo.

The exhibition is structured around the works Christo and Jeanne-Claude realized in Paris. A first ensemble is dedicated to the couple's Parisian years from 1958, the year they met, until 1964, when they settled in New York. A second ensemble, dedicated to the *Pont-Neuf Wrapped, Paris, 1975-1985*, describes the creative process that led to this spectacular artwork, shown to the public in 1985.

This first presentation of work by Christo and Jeanne-Claude in a Parisian institution is an ambitious undertaking. On the one hand, it unveils works from their studio that are unknown to the general public, such as their *Cratères* series of matterist paintings influenced by Jean Dubuffet, *Surfaces d'Empaquetage* and *Boîtes*, as well as an exceptional selection of packaged objects and their very first *Vitrines and Store Fronts*.

On the other hand, the exhibition retraces all the developmental stages of a masterful urban work that is now imprinted on our collective memory, *The Pont-Neuf Wrapped, Paris, 1975-1985*, from preparatory studies (some forty drawings and collages) to elements related to its engineering, photographs in situ and a documentary film shot on the occasion of the project's realization, which lasted ten years.

The exhibition design reflects these two contrasting moments in Christo and Jeanne-Claude's artistic journey: in the first section, works conceived in the intimacy of their cramped studios; in the second, the deployment of works outdoors in the urban landscape. The exhibition puts in perspective the seminal character of these Parisian years and the period's great importance to the development of the work that followed.

## **About the Centre des Monuments Nationaux**

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The archaeological sites of Glanum and Carnac, the abbeys of Montmajour and Mont-Saint-Michel, the châteaux of If and Azay-le-Rideau, the National Domain of Saint-Cloud, the Arc de Triomphe and the Villas Savoye and Cavrois are just some of the 100 national monuments in France, properties of the State, now under the care of the Centre des Monuments Nationaux (CMN).

As the leading public, cultural and tourist operator with near 10 million visitors a year, the Centre des Monuments Nationaux preserves and opens exceptional monuments to the public as well as its parks and gardens. They illustrate, in their diversity, the richness of French national heritage. With nearly 400 events produced or hosted each year, the CMN promotes the participation of national monuments in cultural life, often in collaboration with prestigious public and private partners.

Supported by a fair pricing policy, the CMN endeavours to facilitate access to our national heritage to every type of audience. More than 85% of its operation is based on its own resources from visitor frequentation, gift and book shops, rental spaces and sponsorship. Based on an equalisation system, the Centre des Monuments Nationaux is a key national heritage solidarity player. The beneficiary monuments enable producing cultural and scientific activities throughout the entire network. In addition, the CMN is restoring and preparing the opening of the Hôtel de la Marine for 2020 and the Château de Villers-Cotterêts by 2022. Last but not least, the CMN wants to assert itself as a leader in the digitalization of heritage sites. By creating its heritage incubator in 2018, it reaffirmed its desire to be as closely involved as possible in innovation.

## **Press contacts :**

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## **Social media :**

### **#ChristoParis**

#### **Christo**

Website : [www.christojeanneclaude.net](http://www.christojeanneclaude.net) (images available with accompanying credit)

Twitter : [@ChristoandJC](https://twitter.com/ChristoandJC)

Instagram : [@ChristoJeanneClaude](https://www.instagram.com/ChristoJeanneClaude)

Facebook : [www.facebook.com/xtojc](https://www.facebook.com/xtojc)

#### **Centre des Monuments Nationaux**

Website : [www.monuments-nationaux.fr](http://www.monuments-nationaux.fr)

Twitter : [@ArcdeTriomphe](https://twitter.com/ArcdeTriomphe) / [@leCMN](https://twitter.com/leCMN)

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#### **Centre Pompidou**

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