



CENTRE DES
MONUMENTS NATIONAUX

Centre
Pompidou

Christo and Jeanne-Claude

Press release, the 3rd of April 2019

THE CENTRE DES MONUMENTS NATIONAUX, THE CENTRE POMPIDOU AND CHRISTO ANNOUNCE

L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE, WRAPPED (PROJECT FOR PARIS, PLACE DE L'ÉTOILE -CHARLES DE GAULLE)

Christo, in close collaboration with the Centre Pompidou and the Centre des monuments nationaux, will create a temporary artwork in Paris entitled *l'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped (Project for Paris, Place de l'Étoile-Charles de Gaulle)*. This artwork will be on view for 14 days, from Monday, April 6, to Sunday, April 19, 2020. The arch will be wrapped in 25,000 square metres of recyclable polypropylene fabric in silvery blue, and 7,000 metres of red rope.

Its realization will coincide with a major exhibition at the Centre Georges Pompidou, from March 18 to June 15, 2020, retracing Christo and Jeanne-Claude's years in Paris from 1958 to 1964, as well as the story of *The Pont-Neuf Wrapped, Project for Paris, 1975-85*. "The exhibition at the Centre Pompidou will reveal the historical context of the period during which we lived and worked in Paris," says Christo.

The Centre des monuments nationaux, the government institution that manages the Arc de Triomphe, is pleased about the realization of a project that demonstrates its commitment to contemporary creation and that honors one of the most emblematic monuments in Paris and in France.

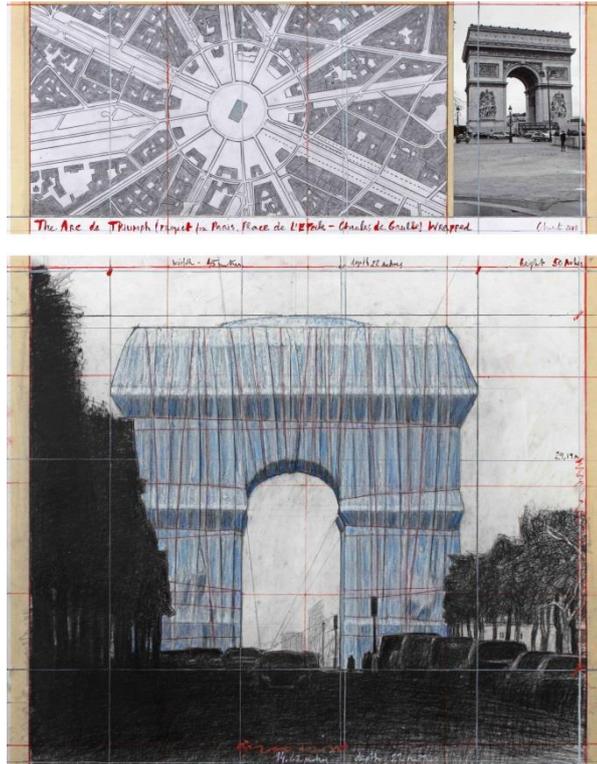
L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped will be entirely funded by Christo through the sale of his preparatory studies, drawings and collages of the project as well as scale models, works from the 1950s and 1960s and original lithographs on other subjects. It will receive no public or private funds.

In 1961, three years after they met in Paris, Christo and Jeanne-Claude began creating works of art in public spaces. One of their projects was to wrap a public building. At the time, Christo, who was renting a small room near the Arc de Triomphe, made several studies of a project there, including, in 1962, a photomontage of the Arc de Triomphe wrapped, seen from the Avenue Foch. In the 1970s and 1980s, Christo created a few additional studies. Almost 60 years later, the project will finally be concretized.

Throughout the entire period when the artwork is on display as well as during its preparation, the space beneath the Arc de Triomphe where the holy flagstone lies and where since 1923 the Eternal Flame has burned in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, will be fully maintained. As always, associations, charity workers and volunteers committed to the values of the French Republic will take turns to ensure the continuity of souvenir and memory, and to proceed with daily ceremony of rekindling the flame and of paying homage to the Unknown Soldier with the appropriate solemnity.

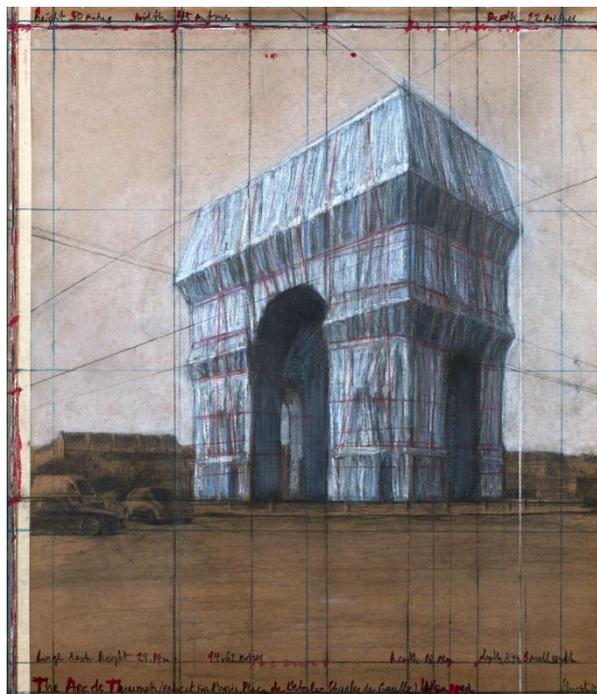
"Thirty-five years after Jeanne-Claude and I wrapped the Pont-Neuf, I am eager to work in Paris again to realize our project for the Arc de Triomphe," says Christo.

Images of L'Arc de Triomphe Project



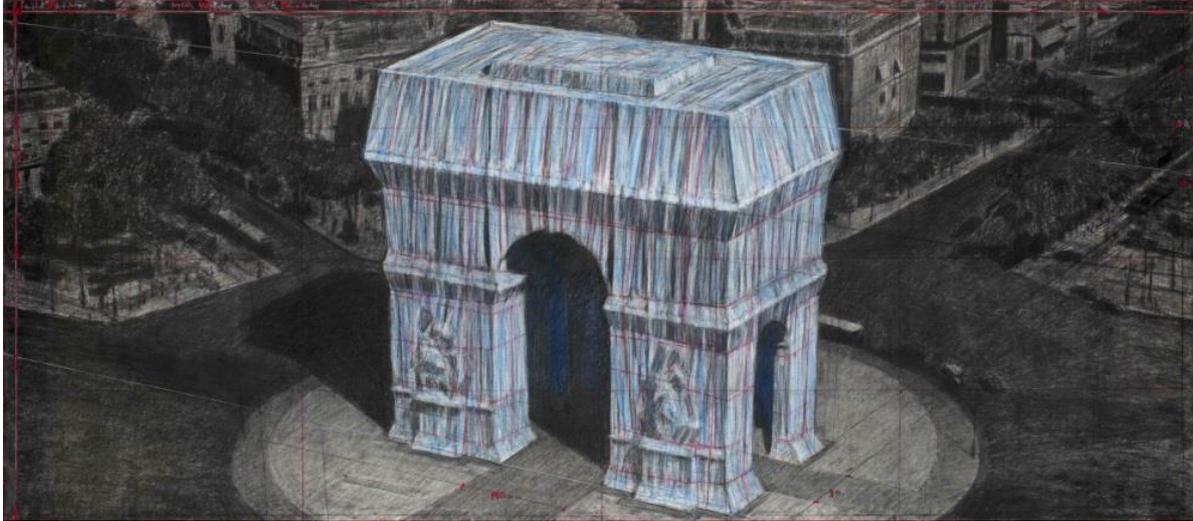
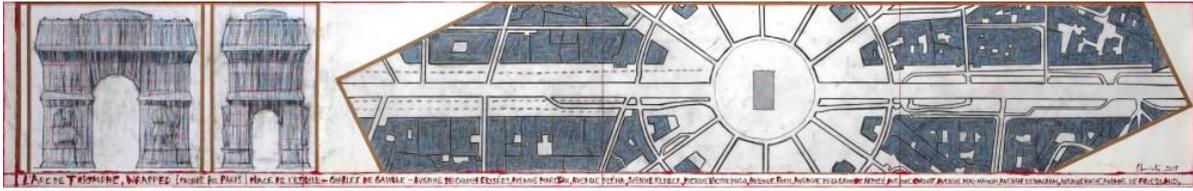
Christo - *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped* (Project for Paris, Place de l'Etoile – Charles de Gaulle)

Collage 2018 in two parts 12 x 30 1/2" and 26 1/4 x 30 1/2" (30.5 x 77.5 cm and 66.7 x 77.5 cm) Pencil, charcoal, wax crayon, fabric, twine, enamel paint, photograph by Wolfgang Volz, hand-drawn map and tape
Photo: André Grossmann © 2018 Christo



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'Étoile – Charles de Gaulle)

Drawing 2019 in two parts 15 x 96" and 42 x 96" (38 x 244 cm and 106.6 x 244 cm) Pencil, charcoal, pastel, wax crayon, enamel paint, architectural and topographic survey, hand-drawn map on vellum and tape Photo: André Grossmann © 2019 Christo

About the artists

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 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
- Project for *Wrapping of the Arc de Triomphe*, 1962
- *Wall of Oil Barrels - The Iron Curtain, Rue Visconti*, 1961-62 (realized)
- *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 in Paris*” (working title) at the Centre Pompidou from the 18th of March to the 15th of June 2020 (Gallery 2)

The Musée national d'art moderne-Centre Pompidou is organizing a thematic exhibition to Christo and Jeanne-Claude, which will be held from March 18 to June 15, 2020, in Gallery 2 of the Centre Pompidou.

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 project 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*, 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 will unveil 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'Emballage* and *Boîtes*, as well as an exceptional selection of packaged objects and their very first *Show Cases*, *Show Windows* and *Store Fronts*.

On the other hand, the exhibition will retrace all the developmental stages of a masterful urban work that is now imprinted on our collective memory, *Le Pont-Neuf emballé*, 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 will reflect 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

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 more 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.

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#ChristoParis

Christo

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

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

Facebook : www.facebook.com/xtoj

Centre des monuments nationaux

Website : www.monuments-nationaux.fr

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