

# CHRISTO and JEANNE-CLAUDE

## Biography, Bibliography, Exhibitions

### Biography

Christo Vladimirov Javacheff was born on June 13th 1935 in Gabrovo, Bulgaria. After completing his studies at the National Academy of Sofia, he relocated to Paris in 1958 where he earned a living by drawing portraits. One such occasion he met the daughter of a client Jeanne Claude Denat (b. June 13 1935, Casablanca, Morocco) who would become his lifetime partner, sharing experiences and combined creativity.

It was in 1961 at the Cologne Port that they began to collaborate artistically by covering barrels with fabric. This event in the following year would pave the way towards the creation of their first monumental work of art, *Iron Curtain*. In Rue Visconti in Paris they installed a barricade of barrels in metal piled high in such a way that the passageway was blocked. It was an act with profound implications, a reference to the Berlin Wall and to the tense atmosphere of those years. Obstructing the flow of people, modifying habit and creating a visual and sensorial perception formed the base of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's work. Their installations surpassed the concept of Land Art; in addition to transforming the world into an enormous wrap of fabric full of expressive interpretations, they mutated and altered landscape and daily life.

In 1964 the couple moved to New York where Christo was able to gain recognition by proposing and exhibiting his own designs and projects in the renowned Castelli Gallery. These works in scale were enormously successful and selling them to the public was a means by which they could finance their much larger installations.

"Wrapping" is the distinct characteristic of these two artists who during the course of the years were capable of creating spectacular works of art. In 1969 two kilometers of the coast in Sydney - the installation, *Wrapped Coast, One Million Square Feet* - was the first "wrapping" in a full-scale representation that would be followed by other just as significant projects.

In 1972 an orange curtain was installed in Colorado which separated approximately 400 meters of two mountain slopes, entitled *Valley Curtain*.

Nearly ten years later, Christo and Jeanne-Claude projected and followed through with the wrapping of the coasts of the small Biscayne Bay islands situated near Miami, hence the birth of the *Surrounded Islands*.

The couple worked on the theory of creating a break with routine, modifying the landscape and visual aspects with the purpose of producing a liberating and personal experience in the viewer.

In 2004, the designs for the installation *The Gates, Project for Central Park* was exhibited contemporaneously at the Contini Art Gallery in Venice, Italy and the Metropolitan Museum of New York.

In 2009 Jeanne-Claude died as a result of illness but Christo continued to carry on with the artistic projects, they had developed together including the recent *Floating Piers*, in 2016. On Lake Iseo in Italy a floating golden walkway was installed to connect Sulzano, Mount Isola with the island of San Paolo. The work radically modified the perception of space and time, allowing the visitors to walk on the waters of the lake to gain access to distant places.

Amongst the completed works the most notable are: *The Pont Neuf Wrapped* (Paris, 1995), *The Umbrellas in Japan and California* (Japan and California 1991), *Wrapped Reichstag* (Berlin, 1995), *The Gates, Central Park* (New York, 2005) and *London Mastaba* (Serpentine Lake, London, 2018)

The designs and projects created by Christo and Jeanne Claude have been exhibited in many of the most important galleries worldwide as well as being present in renowned public and private collections

Christo died in his home in New York at the age of eighty-four on May 31, 2020, leaving the project *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped* as his final legacy. It will nonetheless be realized in September 2021 according to his last wishes.

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*Christo: Show Windows and Store Fronts, 1963-67*, foreword by Craig F. Starr. Craig F. Starr Gallery, New York, USA

## 2016

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Works in Progress*, interviews by Germano Celant, Matthias Koddenberg and Julia Halperin, Galerie Gmurzynska, St. Moritz, Switzerland

**Selected exhibitions****2020**

*Christo et Jeanne-Claude: Paris!*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Projects 1963–2020. Ingrid & Thomas Jochheim Collection*,  
PalaisPopulaire, Berlin, Germany

*Christo et Jeanne-Claude: Collection Würth*, Musée Würth France Erstein, Erstein, France

**2019**

*Christo: Femmes 1962-1968*, Musée Yves Saint Laurent Marrakech, Morocco

**2018**

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Surrounded Islands, Biscayne Bay, Greater Miami, Florida, 1980-83. A Documentary Exhibition*, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Florida, USA

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: The London Mastaba, Serpentine Lake, Hyde Park, 2016-18*, Fondation  
Linda et Guy Pieters, Saint Tropez, France

*Christo und Jeanne-Claude: Werke aus der Sammlung Jochheim. Fotografien von Wolfgang Volz*,  
Mönchehaus Museum, Goslar, Germany

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Barrels and The Mastaba (1958-2018)*, Serpentine Galleries, London, UK

**2017**

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Urban Projects*, ING Art Center, Brussels, Belgium

*Process and Participation in the Work of Christo and Jeanne-Claude*, National Gallery of Art,  
Washington D.C., USA

**2016**

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Barrels*, Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, France

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Water Projects*, Museo di Santa Giulia, Brescia, Italy

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Running Fence - 40 Years Post*, Art Museum of Sonoma County, Santa  
Rosa, California, USA

**2015**

*Christo: Show Windows and Store Fronts, 1963-67*, Craig F. Starr Gallery, New York City, USA

*XTO+J-C: Christo and Jeanne-Claude featuring works from the bequest of David C. Copley*, Tampa  
Museum of Art, Florida, USA

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Prints and Objects*, Sofia City Art Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria



*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: The Floating Piers, Project for Lake Iseo, Italy, Guy Pieters Gallery, Knokke-Heist, Belgium*

## **2014**

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: The Tom Golden Collection, The Albuquerque Museum of Art and History, Albuquerque, New Mexico*

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Featuring Works from the Bequest of David C. Copley, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, California, USA*

## **2013**

*Christo und Jeanne-Claude: Verhüllter Reichstag, Berlin, 1971-95. Werke aus Berliner Sammlungen, Villa Schöningen, Potsdam, Germany*

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: The Mastaba, Project for Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Guy Pieters Gallery, Knokke-Heist, Belgium*

*Christo: Big Air Package, Project for Gasometer Oberhausen, Ludwig Galerie Schloss Oberhausen, Germany*

*Christo: Big Air Package, Gasometer Oberhausen, Germany*

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: The Tom Golden Collection, Price Tower Arts Center, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, USA*

## **2012**

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Prints and Objects, Lowe Art Museum at the University of Miami, Miami, Florida, USA*

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Prints and Objects, Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, Laurel, Mississippi, USA*

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Opere nella Collezione Würth, Art Forum Würth Capena, Capena, Italy*

## **2010**

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Over The River, Project for the Arkansas River, State of Colorado. A Work in Progress, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, Colorado, USA*

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Remembering the Running Fence. A Documentation Exhibition, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C., USA*

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Life=Works=Projects, 21/21 Design Site, Tokyo, Japan*

## 2008

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Over The River, Project for the Arkansas River, State of Colorado. A Work in Progress*, The Phillips Collection, Washington D.C., USA

## 2006

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Works and Projects 1958-2006*, Miyanomori Art Museum, Sapporo, Japan

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: The Pont Neuf Wrapped, Paris, 1975-85. A Documentation Exhibition/ Over The River, Project for the Arkansas River, State of Colorado. A Work in Progress*, Kunsthalle Rostock, Germany

*Christo e Jeanne-Claude*, Museo d'Arte Moderna, Lugano, Switzerland

## 2004

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude*, Contini Art Gallery, Venice, Italy

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude*, Contini Art Gallery, Cortina, Italy

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: The Pont Neuf Wrapped, Paris, 1975-85. A Documentation Exhibition*, Portland Art Museum, Oregon, USA

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Swiss Projects 1968-1998*, Centre Pasquart, Biel/Bienne, Switzerland

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: The Gates, Project for Central Park, New York City*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA

## 2003

*Christo: Works from the Collection*, Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo, The Netherlands

## 2002

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude in the Vogel Collection*, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, California, USA

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude in the Vogel Collection*, National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., USA

## 2001

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Early Works 1958-69*, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlino, Germany

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Wrapped Reichstag, Berlin, 1971-95. Documentation Exhibition*, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, Germany

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Two Works in Progress*, Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin, Germany

## 2000

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Two Works in Progress and Oil Barrels 1962-99*, Mönchehaus Museum, Goslar, Germany

*Twenty-One Golden Years with Christo and Jeanne-Claude: The Tom Golden Collection*, Sonoma County Museum, Santa Rosa, California, USA

## 1999

*Christo et Jeanne-Claude: Projets. Sélection de la collection Lilja*, Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain, Nice, France

## 1998

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Early Works 1958-1969 and Works in Progress*, Palazzo Bricherasio, Torino, Italy

## 1997

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Sculpture and Projects*, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, UK

## 1993

*Christo: Der Reichstag und urbane Projekte*, Kunst Haus Wien, Wien, Austria

## 1991

*Christo: Early Works 1958-64*, Satani Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

*Christo: Obra 1958-1991*, Galeria Joan Prats, Barcelona, Spain

*Christo: Surrounded Islands, Biscayne Bay, Greater Miami, Florida, 1980-83, Documentation Exhibition*, Sapporo Geijutsu No Mori Museum, Sapporo, Japan

## 1988

*Christo: Collection on Loan from the Rothschild Bank, Zurich*, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Modern Art, Kobe, Japan

*Christo: Collection on Loan from the Rothschild Bank, Zürich*, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan, Republic of China

## 1984

*Christo: Wrapped Floors im Architekturmuseum in Basel, 1984*, Architekturmuseum, Basel, Switzerland

*Surrounded Islands, Biscayne Bay, Greater Miami, Florida, 1980-83, Documentation Exhibition, Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Germany*

## **1981**

*Christo: Collection on Loan from the Rothschild Bank AG, Zurigo, La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, California, USA*

*Christo: Projekte in der Stadt 1961-1981, Museum Ludwig, Colonia, Germany*

## **1980**

*Christo: Exposition d'Art Environmental, Alliance Française, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates*

## **1979**

*Christo: Urban Projects. A Survey, The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Massachusetts, USA*

## **1973**

*Christo: Drawings - Otterlo Mastaba, Project for Kröller-Müller, Rijksmuseum Kröller-Müller, Otterlo, The Netherlands*

## **1971**

*Christo: Wrapped Floors - Wrapped Stairway - Wrapped Walk Ways, Museum Haus Lange, Krefeld, Germany*

*Christo: Projects Not Realised, Annely Juda Fine Art, London, UK*

## **1969**

*Christo: Wool Works, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia*

*Christo: Wrap In Wrap Out, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Illinois, USA*

*Christo: Wrapped Floor and Stairway, Wide White Space Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium*

## **1968**

*Christo: Projects of Packages, Storefronts, and Barrels for the National Gallery, Rome, John Gibson Gallery, New York City, USA*

*Christo Wraps the Museum: Scale Models, Photomontages, and Drawings for a Non-Event, The Museum of Modern Art, New York City, USA*

## **1967**

*Christo: Store Fronts, Empaquetages, Projects, Galerie Der Spiegel, Cologne, Germany*

CONTINI

GALLERIA D'ARTE

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**1966**

*Christo: Empaquetages, Volumen Temporale, Store Fronts*, Stedelijk van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven,  
The Netherlands

*Christo*, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, USA

**1964**

*Christo*, Galleria Gian Enzo Sperone, Torino, Italy

*Christo: Store Fronts*, Galerie Schmela, Düsseldorf, Germany

**1963**

*Christo*, Galleria del Leone, Venice, Italy

*Christo*, Galleria La Salita, Rome, Italy

*Christo: Empaquetage Monumental*, Galleria Apollinaire, Milan, Italy

**1962**

*Christo: Monument Temporaire - Mur d'Assemblage*, Galerie J, Paris, France

**1961**

*Christo*, Galerie Haro Lauhus, Cologne, Germany