

Christo and Jeanne-Claude

Paris, September 30, 2021

**CLOSING WEEKEND OF  
L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE, WRAPPED, PARIS, 1961-2021  
BY CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE**

***Deinstallation of the artwork will begin on October 4th***

**This Sunday, October 3rd, will be the last day of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's [L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped, Paris, 1961-2021](#).** The temporary work of art was completed by the artists' team under the project leadership of Vladimir Yavachev, in partnership with the Centre des monuments nationaux (CMN) and with the support of the City of Paris and the Centre Pompidou.

For the 16 days of its viewing (September 18-October 3), the monument was wrapped in 25,000 square meters of recyclable silvery blue polypropylene fabric and 3,000 meters of recyclable red polypropylene rope. The project was entirely funded through the sale of original works of art by Christo, including preparatory studies and collages, models, artworks from the 1950s and 1960s and lithographs. Like past projects of Christo and Jeanne-Claude, it received no public funds or sponsorships.

***L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped, Paris, 1961-2021 has been free for everyone to experience, no tickets were needed to see, approach, and touch the work of art.*** Christo and Jeanne-Claude have always prioritized access to their works in public spaces. To enable visitors to enjoy *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped, Paris, 1961-2021* safely and close up, the Place de l'Étoile was pedestrianized for the three weekends of its presentation to the public. This exceptional traffic closure was organized in cooperation with the City of Paris and the Préfecture of Police.

"On behalf of the project, I want to extend my gratitude to President Macron, Philippe Bélaïval, president of CMN, Mayor Hidalgo, and the many other partners and team members who made this work of art possible," said Vladimir Yavachev, project director. "While Christo and Jeanne-Claude were not with us to see *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped* completed, their spirit was present and hopefully felt by those who experienced the artwork."

**More than 1,000 workers have contributed to the realization of the project**, including a construction team of 140 with 95 climbers, who unfolded the fabric panels on the Arc de Triomphe. **More than 30 partnering companies** for the project included Les Charpentiers de Paris, who were also the builders for the wrapping of the Pont-Neuf in 1985; Réseau Jade, a French company specializing in rope access; the German engineering and design studio Schlaich Bergermann Partner (SBP); and the German membrane engineering company büro für leichtbau / Tritthardt + Richter.

## Christo and Jeanne-Claude

**Over 350 monitors, representing 20 different nationalities,** were employed to greet visitors and answer questions about the artwork each day. Languages spoken by the monitors included French, English, Italian, Spanish, German, Bulgarian, Chinese, Japanese, Greek, and Portuguese. They also handed out free fabric samples to the public.

### ***Deinstallation and recycling of the artwork***

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**Deinstallation of *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped, Paris, 1961-2021*, will begin on October 4 and end by November 10, 2021.** During this time, the interiors and the panoramic terrace of the monument, managed by the CMN, will remain open to the public. The Eternal Flame, in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arc de Triomphe, will also continue to burn throughout dismantling period and the daily ceremony of rekindling the flame that pays homage to the Unknown Soldier and those who lost their lives fighting for France will take place in the solemnity required.

**As done in all past projects by Christo and Jeanne-Claude, the materials used to create *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped, Paris, 1961-2021* will be reused, upcycled, and recycled.** The 25,000 square meters (269,098 square feet) of silvery blue polypropylene fabric and 3,000 meters (9843 feet) of red polypropylene rope will be upcycled by [Parley for the Oceans](#), the global environmental organization fighting marine plastic pollution. Parley will upcycle the materials, benefiting its Clean Waves fundraising platform with 100% of net proceeds supporting the expansion of remote island cleanups, education and infrastructure projects.

**“Art has the power to raise questions, to provoke new thoughts and to drive change,” said Cyrill Gutsch, Founder & CEO, Parley for the Oceans.** “Parley becoming a partner of the artwork *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped* by Christo and Jeanne-Claude sends the strong message that protecting our oceans, our climate can only succeed as a collaborative effort. Repurposing and upcycling fabric and ropes, off-setting the plastic and carbon footprint is just the beginning. The long-term solution is in developing new materials which can replace the harmful standards of the past. Artists and scientists play a vital role in this process, which we at Parley call the Material Revolution.”

Additionally, Parley is committed to intercepting plastic and carbon emissions to counteract the footprint of its partnering projects and will turn them *double positive*. For every 1kg of plastic used and carbon emissions created, Parley intercepts 2kg of plastic waste from the environment. Parley is operating in 30 countries to clean-up rivers, coastlines, beaches and islands from plastic waste and is also working to preserve underwater kelp forests which sequester carbon dioxide, support biodiversity, regulate water pH, provide shelter and nourishment for sea life, and buffer the coasts from storms and erosion.

**The materials used for creating the substructures of the work of art will also have a second life.** 40% of the steel used for the project was borrowed from ArcelorMittal and will be

## Christo and Jeanne-Claude

returned to the company for further use. The remainder of the steel will be recycled by Derichebourg Environnement in the Paris area. **Wood** used on the Arc rooftop will be removed by Les Charpentiers de Paris and assessed for use in the company's future projects.

Following the completion of *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped, Paris, 1961-2021*, Christo and Jeanne-Claude's team will return focus on a permanent work of the artists: *The Mastaba (Project for Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates)*, started in 1977. If realized, it will be the largest permanent work of art in the world.

### ***The final unrealized project of Christo and Jeanne-Claude: The Mastaba (Project for Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates)***

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[The Mastaba of Abu Dhabi \(Project for United Arab Emirates\)](#)

Scale model 1979

Enamel paint, wood, paint, sand, and cardboard, 82.5 x 244 x 244 cm (32½ x 96 x 96 in)

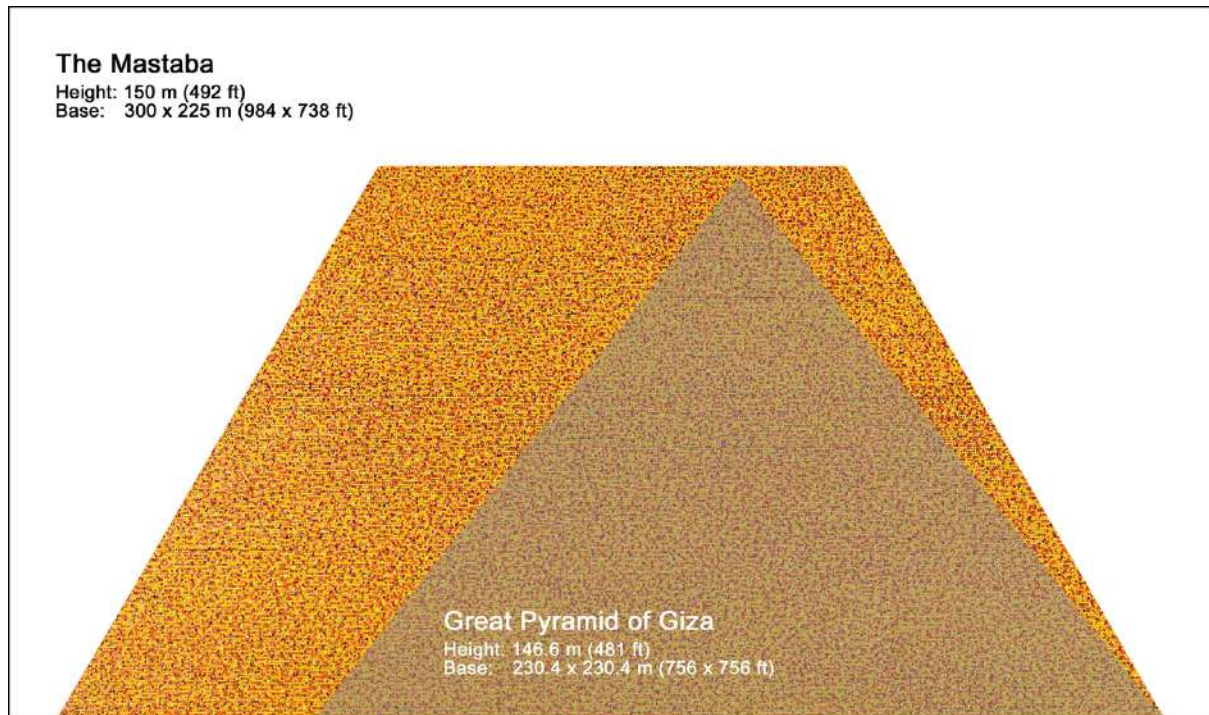
Property of the Estate of Christo V. Javacheff - Wolfgang Volz - 1979 Christo and Jeanne-Claude Foundation

**The Mastaba, a project for Abu Dhabi, was first conceived in 1977. It will be made from 410,000 multi-colored barrels to form a colorful mosaic, echoing Islamic architecture.**

The Mastaba will be 150 meters (492 feet) high, 300 meters (984 feet) long at the vertical walls and 225 meters (738 feet) wide at the 60 degree slanted walls. The colors and the positioning of the 55-gallon steel barrels were selected by Christo and Jeanne-Claude in 1979, the year in which the artists visited the United Arab Emirates for the first time.

The proposed location is inland, approximately 160 kilometers (100 miles) south of the city of Abu Dhabi in the desert of Liwa. The Mastaba will be Christo and Jeanne-Claude's only permanent, large-scale public artwork.

# Christo and Jeanne-Claude



Note: [More high resolution visuals are available in the press section dedicated to the project.](#)

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