

Christo and Jeanne-Claude Biography

1935

Christo: American, Bulgarian born Christo Javacheff, June 13, Gabrovo, of an industrialist family. Died May 31, 2020, New York City.

Jeanne-Claude: American, French born Jeanne-Claude Denat de Guillebon, June 13, Casablanca, of a French military family, educated in France and Switzerland. Died November 18, 2009, New York City.

1952

Jeanne-Claude: Baccalauréat in Latin and Philosophy, University of Tunis.

1953–56

Christo: Studies at Fine Arts Academy, Sofia. 1956, arrival in Prague.

1957

Christo studies one semester at the Vienna Fine Arts Academy.

1958

Christo arrives in Paris where he meets Jeanne-Claude. *Packages and Wrapped Objects*.

1960

Birth of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's son, Cyril, May 11.

1961

Project for a Wrapping of a Public Building

Stacked Oil Barrels and Dockside Packages at Cologne Harbor, their first collaboration.

1962

The Iron Curtain – Wall of Oil Barrels, Rue Visconti, Paris, 1961–62

Stacked Oil Barrels, Gentilly, near Paris

Wrapped Woman, London

1963

Show Cases

1964

Establishment of permanent residence in New York City. *Store Fronts and Show Windows*

1966

Air Package and Wrapped Tree, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, the Netherlands

42,390 Cubic Feet Package at the Walker Art Center and the Minneapolis School of Art

1968

Wrapped Fountain and Wrapped Medieval Tower, Spoleto

Wrapping of a public building: *Wrapped Kunsthalle Bern, 1967–68*

5,600 Cubicmeter Package, documenta IV, Kassel, 1967–68

an air package 85 meters (279 feet) high, with a diameter of 10 meters (33 feet).

Corridor Store Front

total area: 140 square meters (1,500 square feet)

1,240 Oil Barrels Mastaba and Two Tons of Stacked Hay, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia

1969

Wrapped Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, 1968–69

900 square meters (10,000 square feet) of tarpaulin. Wrapped Floor and Stairway, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, 260 square meters (2,800 square feet) of drop cloths.

Wrapped Coast, Little Bay, One Million Square Feet, Sydney, Australia, 1968–69

92,900 square meters (one million square feet) erosion control fabric and 56 kilometers (36 miles) of ropes.

Project for stacked oil barrels: *Houston Mastaba, Texas, 1,249,000 barrels* (not realized)

Project for Closed Highway (not realized)

1970

Wrapped Monuments, Milan: Wrapped Monument to Vittorio Emanuele, Piazza del Duomo; Wrapped Monument to Leonardo da Vinci, Piazza della Scala

1971

Wrapped Floor, Wrapped Stairs, Covered Windows and Wrapped Walk Ways, Haus Lange, Krefeld, Germany

1972

Valley Curtain, Grand Hogback, Rifle, Colorado, 1970–72

width: 381 meters (1,250 feet), height: 111 meters (365 feet), 13,192 square meters (142,000 square feet) of nylon fabric, 49,895 kilograms (110,000 lbs.) of steel cables, 784 metric tons of concrete.

1974

The Wall, Wrapped Roman Wall, Via Veneto and Villa Borghese, Rome, Italy, 1973–74

Ocean Front, Newport, Rhode Island

13,500 square meters (150,000 square feet) of floating polypropylene fabric over the ocean.

1976

Running Fence, Sonoma and Marin Counties, California, 1972–76

5.50 meters (18 feet) high, 39.4 kilometers (24 ½ miles) long, 200,000 square meters (240,000 square yards) of woven nylon fabric, 145 kilometers (90 miles) of steel cables, 2,050 steel poles.

1977

The Mastaba, Project for the United Arab Emirates, in progress.

1978

Wrapped Walk Ways, Jacob Loose Park, Kansas City, Missouri, 1977–78

12,540 square meters (15,000 square yards) of woven nylon fabric over 4.4 kilometers (2.8 miles) of walkways.

1983

Surrounded Islands, Biscayne Bay, Greater Miami, Florida, 1980–83

603,870 square meters (6.5 million square feet) of pink woven polypropylene floating fabric.

1984

Wrapped Floors and Stairways and Covered Windows, Architekturmuseum, Basel, Switzerland

1985

The Pont Neuf Wrapped, Paris, 1975–85

40,876 square meters (454,178 square feet) of woven polyamide fabric, 42,900 feet of rope.

1991

The Umbrellas, Japan–USA, 1984–91

1,340 blue umbrellas in Ibaraki, Japan; 1,760 yellow umbrellas in California, USA, each: 6 meters (19 feet 8 inches) high, diameter: 8.66 meters (28 feet 6 inches).

1992

Over The River, Project for the Arkansas River, Colorado, USA, canceled in 2017.

1995

Wrapped Floors and Stairways and Covered Windows, Museum Würth, Künzelsau, Germany

Wrapped Reichstag, Berlin, 1971–95

100,000 square meters (1,076,000 square feet) of polypropylene fabric, 15,600 meters (51,181 feet) of rope and 200 metric tons of steel.

1998

Wrapped Trees, Fondation Beyeler and Berower Park, Riehen, Switzerland 1997–98

178 trees, 53,283 square meters (592,034 square feet) of woven polyester fabric, 23 kilo- meters (14.3 miles) of rope.

1999

The Wall, 13,000 Oil Barrels, Gasometer Oberhausen, Germany, 1998–99

(an indoor installation)

2005

The Gates, Central Park, New York City, 1979–2005

7,503 vinyl gates, with free-flowing nylon fabric panels, anchored to 15,006 steel bases on 37 kilometers (23 miles) of walkways.

2013

Big Air Package, Gasometer Oberhausen, Germany, 2010–13

90 meters (295 feet) high, diameter: 50 meters (164 feet), volume: 177,000 cubic meters (6,250,000 cubic feet).

2016

The Floating Piers, Lake Iseo, Italy, 2014–16

100,000 square meters (1,076,391 square feet) of shimmering yellow fabric, carried by a modular floating dock system of 220,000 high-density polyethylene cubes, creating a 3-kilometer- (1.9-mile) long walkway across the water.

2018

The London Mastaba, Serpentine Lake, Hyde Park, London, 2016–18

7,506 horizontally stacked barrels on a floating platform in Serpentine Lake. Size of the temporary sculpture: 20 meters (65.5 feet) high x 30 meters (90 feet) wide (at the 60° slanted walls) x 40 meters (130 feet) long.

2021

L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped, Paris, 1961-2021

25,000 square meters (269,097 square feet) of recyclable silvery blue polypropylene fabric and 3,000 meters (1.86 miles) of recyclable red polypropylene rope.

Following the completion of *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped*, Christo and

Jeanne-Claude's team returned focus on a permanent work of the artists: *The Mastaba*

(*Project for Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates*), conceived in 1977. *The Mastaba*, made from

410,000 multi-colored barrels, 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.

It will be the largest contemporary sculpture (in volume) in the world.