

**THE ARC DE TRIOMPHE, WRAPPED (PROJECT FOR PARIS, PLACE DE L'ÉTOILE-CHARLES DE GAULLE) BY CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE WILL BE ON VIEW FROM THE PEDESTRIANISED PLACE CHARLES DE GAULLE, EVERY WEEKEND, FROM 18 SEPTEMBER TO 3 OCTOBER**

As planned, [The Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped](#) (Project for Paris, Place de l'Étoile-Charles de Gaulle) by Christo and Jeanne-Claude, will be on view from Saturday 18 September to Sunday 3 October 2021. In accordance with Christo's wishes, it will be completed by his team in partnership with the Centre des monuments nationaux (CMN) and with the support of the Centre Pompidou and Ville de Paris.

The Arc de Triomphe monument will be wrapped in 25,000 square meters of recyclable silvery blue polypropylene fabric and 3,000 meters of recyclable red polypropylene rope. The project is entirely funded through the sale of original artworks by Christo, including preparatory studies and collages, models, works from the 1950s and 1960s and lithographs. Like all of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's projects, **it will receive no public funds or sponsorships.**

To enable visitors to enjoy *The Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped* safely and close up, **the Place de l'Étoile will be pedestrianised for the three weekends of its presentation to the public.** This exceptional closure to traffic of the Place Charles de Gaulle has been organised with the cooperation of the Ville de Paris and the Préfecture de Police in order to ensure the safety of the event and the attractiveness of the site throughout the event. The Avenue des Champs-Élysées will be closed to traffic on Sunday 19 September for Car-free Day, and on Sunday 3 October for its monthly pedestrian-only day.

*"I began working with Christo and Jeanne-Claude in 1990, at the age of 17. I loved it so much that it became my life. I never wanted to do anything else," said Vladimir Yavachev, Project Director for L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped. "As Christo liked to say, 'Our projects are alive', and today L'Arc de Triomphe is coming to life. Christo approved every visual aspect of this project, and in a way it is a memorial to the life and work Christo and Jeanne-Claude created together in Paris and across the world, which always exceeded what we believe to be possible. We are grateful to the Centre des monuments nationaux, the City, and to our incredible team who together realized this work of art."*

**Press contacts :**

Christo and Jeanne-Claude : [adt@christojeanneclaude.net](mailto:adt@christojeanneclaude.net)

CMN : Marie Roy 01 44 61 21 86 [presse@monuments-nationaux.fr](mailto:presse@monuments-nationaux.fr)

All the CMN press releases : [presse.monuments-nationaux.fr](http://presse.monuments-nationaux.fr)

*“Over thirty years after the Pont Neuf wrapping, the wrapping of the Arc de Triomphe by Christo and Jeanne-Claude will be an event with global resonance, and the Centre des monuments nationaux is delighted to make possible. From everywhere, millions of eyes will be looking at this iconic monument of Paris and French history. After two difficult years, heritage and art creation will unite to offer to the public an unforgettable moment of shared joy”,* said **Philippe Bélaval, President of the Centre des monuments nationaux.**

Throughout the duration of the *L’Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped*, including the installation (from July 15<sup>th</sup> to September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021) and dismantling (from October 4<sup>th</sup> to November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021), the interiors and the panoramic terrace of the monument, managed by the CMN, will remain open to the public.

In order to preserve the integrity of the monument, a classified Historical Monument, all the operations undertaken to set up and dismantle *The Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped* are subject to scientific and technical monitoring by Ministry of Culture teams.

The Eternal Flame, in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arc de Triomphe, will continue to burn throughout set-up and dismantling, as well as during the display of the artwork. 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.

### ***Access during the wrapping***

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During the entire project, **Parisians and Paris aficionados will be able to experience *L’Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped***, from the place de l’Etoile, at the highest point of the Champs-Élysées. Christo and Jeanne-Claude have always prioritized access to their works in public spaces. **Over 300 welcome monitors** will be on site to greet visitors and answer questions about the project. They will also hand out free fabric samples.

As always **access to the monument’s interiors and the panoramic terrace is possible with a ticket** (available onsite in the tunnel on the Champs-Élysées side). As of today at 12pm, visitors can also book a time stamped ticket [online](#). For public safety reasons, flow regulation measures may be enacted on the platform of the Arc de Triomphe.

Inside the monument, tours will continue and will include details on Christo and Jeanne-Claude’s project. Inside the museum, there will also be a preparatory model of the artwork, and a screen highlighting some of the past projects of Christo and Jeanne-Claude with animated 3D maps). The fabric will also cover the terrace of the Arc de Triomphe, allowing the visitors to walk on it.

### ***About L’Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped (Project for Paris, Place de l’Etoile – Charles de Gaulle)***

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In 1961, three years after they met in Paris, Christo and Jeanne-Claude began creating temporary works of art in public spaces. In 1961, Christo imagines wrapping

the Arc de Triomphe. In 1962, he created a photomontage with the Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped, seen from Foch Avenue, and again featured the Arc de Triomphe wrapped in a collage in 1988. He began actively developing this project in 2017, and now almost 60 years later, it will finally be realized.

*“It will be like a living object who will move in the wind and reflect the light. With its moving folds, the monument’s surface will become sensual. People will want to touch the Arc de Triomphe,”* Christo said in 2020.

The project was submitted to the Centre des Monuments Nationaux by the Centre Pompidou, which organized the exhibition “Christo and Jeanne-Claude. Paris!” in 2020, and has the support of the City of Paris.

The Centre des monuments nationaux, which ensures the conservation and opening of the Arc de Triomphe on behalf of the national state, is pleased about the realization of a project that demonstrates its commitment to contemporary art creation and that honors one of the most emblematic monuments in Paris and in France.

### ***Practical information for the access to the interiors and the panoramic terrace of L’Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped***

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#### [Arc de Triomphe](#)

Place Charles de Gaulle - 75008 Paris

#### **Price and booking**

Rate : 16 €.

Free entrance for children under 7.

Compulsory [booking online](#).

Visitors are encouraged to visit [the website of the Arc de Triomphe](#) with all the practical information before their visit.

Note : External viewing of the Arc de Triomphe continues to be free and open to all.

#### **Opening times**

Open everyday.

10 am – 11 pm (last entry at 10.15 pm).

#### **Access**

The entrance for ticket holders is at the tunnel on top of the Champs-Élysées.

#### **Public transport**

Metro lines 1, 2, 6 and RER line A, station Charles-de-Gaulle-Etoile.

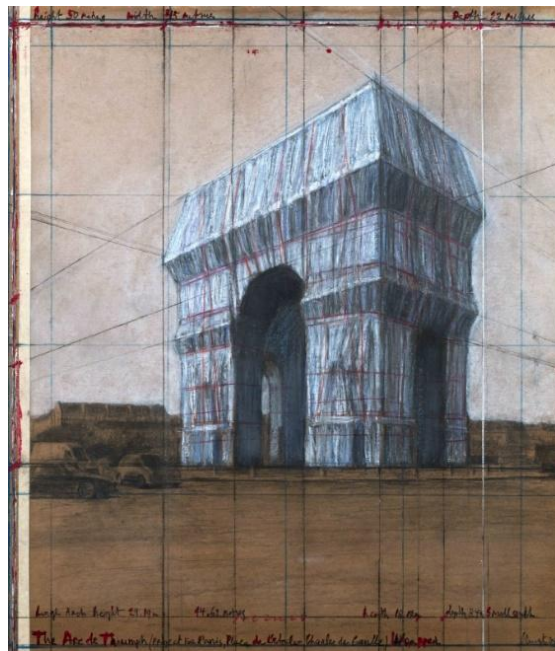
Bus lines 22, 30, 31, 52, 73, 92 and Balabus.

#### **By car**

From outside Paris : exit Porte Maillot then avenue de la Grande Armée or exit Porte Dauphine then avenue Foch.

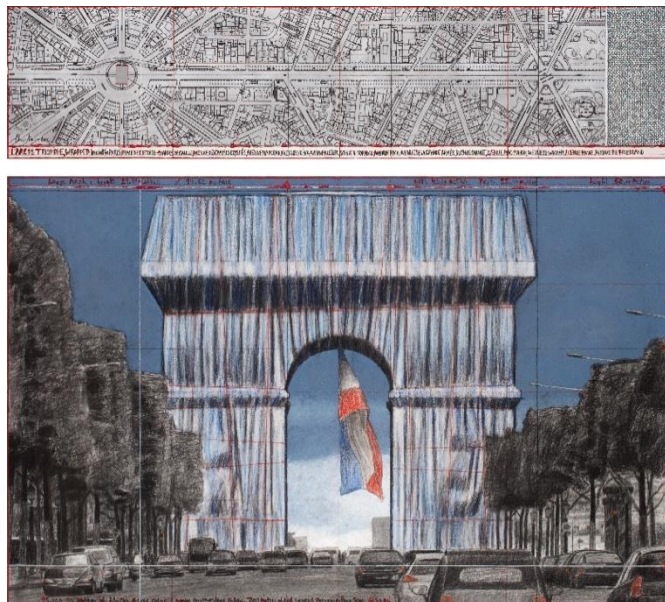
*Images of the project L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped (Project for Paris, Place de l'Etoile – Charles de Gaulle)*

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

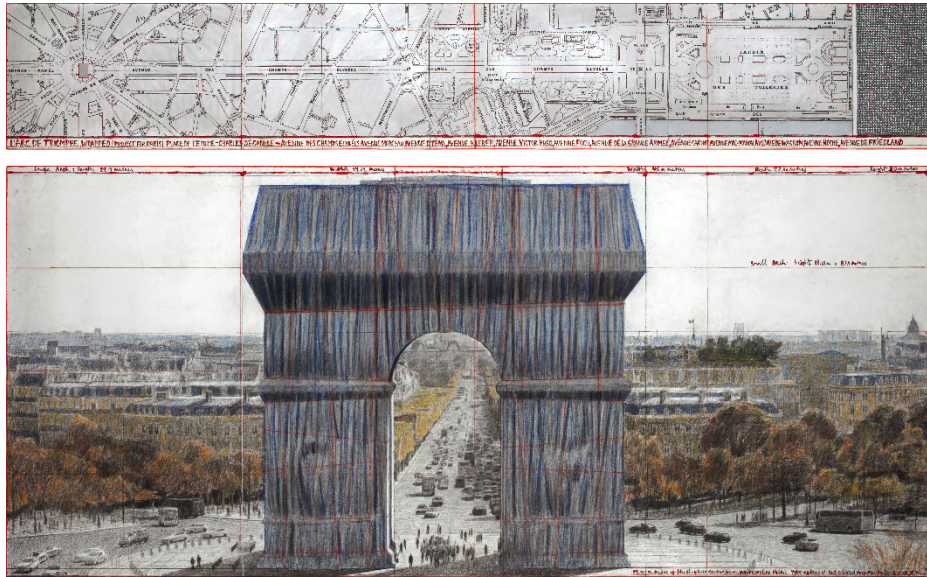
Drawing, 2018, 77,5 x 66,7 cm (30 1/2 x 26 1/4"), pencil, charcoal, pastel, wax crayon, enamel paint and tape on brown board, photo: André Grossmann, © 2018 Christo



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, pastel, wax crayon, enamel paint, map and fabric sample, 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), was born in 1935 in Gabrovo, Bulgaria and died in May 2020 in New York City, USA) and **Jeanne-Claude** (Jeanne-Claude Marie Denat-de Guillebon) was born in 1935 in Casablanca, Morocco and died in November 2009 in New York City, USA. The artists are internationally known for [their monumental temporary artworks](#).

After studying at the Fine Arts Academy in Sofia, Christo fled communist Bulgaria in 1957 and settled in Paris in march 1958, attracted by 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. They began their artistic collaboration in 1961 and settled in New York in 1964.

The seven-year period spent in Paris (1958-1964) is essential for Christo. This intense period of creation appears today as fundamental in his artistic gesture. In 1961, Christo and Jeanne-Claude start to conceive interventions at the city's scale, from the Iron Curtain project, rue Visconti realized in 1962 to the Pont-Neuf Wrapped, which took ten years to realize from 1975 to 1985.

Their projects for the City of Light include:

- *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 Elysées and Rond-Point des Champs Elysées in Paris), 1969*
- *Wrapped Bridge, Project for the Pont Alexandre III, 1972*
- *Wrapped Staircase, Rue de Paradis – Yvon Lambert, Paris, 1972 (realized)*
- *The Pont-Neuf Wrapped, 1975-1985 (realized)*

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 Centre des monuments nationaux***

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The archaeological sites of Glanum and Carnac, the abbeys of Montmajour and Mont-Saint-Michel, the Château d'If and the Château d'Azay-le-Rideau, the ramparts of Carcassonne, the Arc de Triomphe, the Villa Savoye and the Villa Cavrois are just some of the 100 national monuments entrusted to the Centre des Monuments Nationaux by the French State.

The Centre des monuments nationaux is the leading public and cultural tourism operator in France, with nearly 10 million visitors per year. It preserves and opens to the public exceptional sites, whose diversity illustrates the wealth of French heritage. Based on an adapted tariff policy, the CMN facilitates the discovery of monumental heritage for the widest possible public. With a self-financing level of more than 85%, the Centre des Monuments Nationaux's system of equalization of resources enables it to promote solidarity between different regional territories. The monuments that benefit from this system enable cultural and scientific initiatives to be conducted within the entire network of the CMN.

After the restoration and opening of the Hôtel de la Marine in June 2021, the CMN restores the château de Villers-Cotterêts to open the Cité internationale de la langue française in 2022.

The CMN is also asserting itself as a leader in the application of digital technology to the world of heritage. It reasserted its determination to be part of innovation through the creation of the Heritage Incubator in 2018, bringing cultural public services ever closer to different audiences' expectations.

#### **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/ChristoandJC](https://www.facebook.com/ChristoandJC)

##### **Centre des monuments nationaux**

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

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

Instagram : [@ArcDeTriomphe\\_Paris](https://www.instagram.com/ArcDeTriomphe_Paris) / [@leCMN](https://www.instagram.com/leCMN)

Facebook : [www.facebook.com/leCMN](http://www.facebook.com/leCMN)

Youtube : [www.youtube.com/c/lecmn](http://www.youtube.com/c/lecmn)

Linkedin : [www.linkedin.com/company/centre-des-monuments-nationaux](http://www.linkedin.com/company/centre-des-monuments-nationaux)

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