



MINISTÈRE
DE LA CULTURE

*Liberté
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CENTRE DES MONUMENTS NATIONAUX

Christo and Jeanne-Claude



CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE
L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE, WRAPPED, PARIS, 1961-2021

Press Kit

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Statement from **Roselyn Bachelot,** **Minister of Culture**

Christo and Jeanne-Claude were audacious artists. Audacity was necessary to imagine and realise projects which they were often the only ones to believe in. For over fifty years, sometimes against all odds, they have illuminated the world with their distinctive vision. Nothing seemed impossible to these artists of the ephemera. With their monumental actions in public space, they have managed to make their way into the public's heart.

Christo and Jeanne-Claude are no longer alive, and I wish to pay them tribute. It was in Paris, the city where they met, that their love and artistic relationship was born, and it is for Paris that they have conceived many artistic projects, from the *Wall of Oil Barrels - The Iron Curtain* on Rue Visconti in 1962, to *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped* today.

When the Centre Pompidou, while preparing the beautiful retrospective of the Parisian projects of the couple, invited Christo to think about a new project for Paris, he instantly answered: the Arc de Triomphe. I am proud that this project is today fulfilled, thanks to an immediate and decisive commitment of the State services, and particularly the Ministry of Culture, which I am pleased to highlight.

I want to give credit to Vladimir Yavachev, Christo and Jeanne-Claude's nephew, who has undertaken with his team the project of *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped* with great energy and determination. During sixteen days, Paris and the Arc will shine across boundaries and the artwork will brilliantly demonstrate the essential connection between heritage and artistic contemporary creation.

I wish for all visitors to be taken away by the poetry of this crazy and magnificent artistic gesture on such an iconic monument.

Roselyne Bachelot-Narquin

Christo and Jeanne-Claude

Statement from **Anne Hidalgo,** **Mayor of Paris**

Thirty six years after the Pont Neuf, it is now the Arc de Triomphe, one of the most famous monuments in Paris, which is being wrapped by Christo. At a moment when cultural and artistic activities are coming back, I am delighted that this last gesture of love by the artist who sadly passed away in May 2020, will be realized.

From September 18th, Parisians as well as tourists will be able to touch this majestic artwork, feel its silver fabric, and see the wind rustle the 25,000 square meters of cloth. From the twelve avenues that lead to the Place de l'Etoile, visitors will have a new perspective of this iconic monument. With this ambitious project, Christo and Jeanne-Claude wanted to disrupt the way we look at the Arc de Triomphe and invite us to think, contemplate and share.

A tribute to the two deceased artists, this temporary and spectacular work is also a tribute to the process of creation and to the artistic freedom that goes beyond the traditional boundaries of sculpture and architecture, and thus creates a work which is alive, and open to all; an artwork which everyone can make their own.

Sixty years after the genesis of the project and the first plans, the wrapping of the Arc de Triomphe is a unique occasion to say "Thank you" to the artists one last time. This is an opportunity to see Paris differently, the city that Christo loved so much since he had taken refuge in 1958 where his and Jeanne-Claude's collaboration was born.

Anne Hidalgo

Christo and Jeanne-Claude

Statement from **Phillippe Bélaval**, **President of the Center of Monu- ments Nationaux**

After a year's postponement due to the sanitary crisis, the Centre des monuments nationaux, which takes care of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris on behalf of the State, is delighted at last to see the completion of the wrapping of this outstanding monument, as the late Christo had conceived it and submitted it to the French authorities.

This realisation should have taken place during the exhibition at the Centre Pompidou that the Musée national d'art moderne dedicated to the works of Christo and Jeanne-Claude made in France. Thanks to the very detailed studies the artist left before he died, the project can now be fulfilled, with the support of the highest State authorities, as well as the City of Paris.

Thirty six years after the wrapping of the Pont-Neuf, Paris will be the only city in the world to have hosted two of Christo's monumental works. This privilege should be appreciated in light of all the challenges implied by carrying out each of his projects. During two weeks, the world's eyes will be on France and on Paris. This is a strong symbol when great occasions to share feelings around art and heritage are made so difficult by a world sanitary crisis.

The Centre des monuments nationaux, which has watched over the monument's integrity and its memorial and patriotic mission, under the authority of the Ministry of Culture, wishes to thank all those who have contributed to this special event which, although temporary, will stay in the Arc de Triomphe and Paris' history.

Philippe Bélaval

Christo and Jeanne-Claude

Statement from **Vladimir Yavachev**, Project Director of *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped*

Christo and Jeanne-Claude met over 60 years ago in Paris where Christo for the first time started using fabric to create artworks. It was also in Paris where they realized their first public intervention, *Wall of Oil Barrels - The Iron Curtain*, on Rue Visconti as a poetic response to the Berlin Wall built the year before. Sharing an imagination unmoored from the constraints of possibilities, Christo began creating collages of a wrapped public building. In 1961 Christo and Jeanne-Claude dreamt up the idea of wrapping the Arc de Triomphe, a project that even they deemed too ambitious to realize and never formally proposed until 2017.

The true identity of every Christo and Jeanne-Claude's project is revealed in the process of its creation. The same is true for *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped*, which lives on and evolves along with the social, political and physical landscape. As Christo liked to say, 'Our projects are alive,' and today L'Arc de Triomphe has come 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.

In physical space and in art, the artists return to the core of their work — a pure manifestation of freedom. Making their art free and accessible to everyone was always essential to Christo and Jeanne-Claude and today we are able to share their vision with the rest of the world.

Vladimir Yavachev

Christo and Jeanne-Claude

General Information

L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped, Paris, 1961-2021 by Christo and Jeanne-Claude, will be on view from Saturday, September 18 to Sunday, October 3, 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 *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped* safely and close up, the Place de l'Etoile 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.

Throughout the duration of *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped*, including the installation (through September 17th, 2021) and dismantling (from October 4th to November 10th, 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 classified Historical Monument, the operations undertaken to set up and dismantle *L'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, and 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.

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



Christo. Photomontage
1962-1963

© 1963 Christo and Jeanne-Claude Foundation

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 imagined wrapping the Arc de Triomphe. In 1962-1963, he created a photomontage with *L'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 60 years later, it will finally be realized.

“It will be like a living object which 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.

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 is supported by 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 honors one of the most emblematic monuments in Paris and in France.

About the Artists



1963, Düsseldorf
Photo: Charles Wilp
© 1963 Christo and Jeanne-Claude Foundation

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) was essential for Christo. This intense period of creation appears today as fundamental in his artistic gesture. In 1961, Christo and Jeanne-Claude began to conceive interventions at the city's scale, from the *Wall of Oil Barrels - The Iron Curtain, 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 Wrapped Ecole Militaire, Paris, 1961*
- *Wall of Oil Barrels -The Iron Curtain, Rue Visconti, 1961-62 (realized)*
- *Project for Wrapping of the Arc de Triomphe, Paris, 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.

Christo and Jeanne-Claude

About the Arc de Triomphe



The Arc de Triomphe, 1963

Photo: Alamy Ltd

© 1963 Alamy Ltd

In 1806, Napoleon I decreed that an arch be built on the Place de l'Etoile in the glory of the Grande Armée. This project was entrusted to Jean-Arnaud Raymond and Jean-François Chalgrin. Plans were hastily drawn up and the first stone was laid on 15 August 1806, the day of the Emperor's birthday. Chalgrin subsequently devised a new project on his own, and his successors followed his architectural plans. When Chalgrin died in 1811, the monument only stood at 5.40 metres above ground level. With the return of the Bourbons in 1814, work on the project stopped, before starting again during the reign of Louis XVIII and was finally completed in 1836, under Louis-Philippe, who dedicated it to the glory of the armies of the French Revolution and of the Empire.

The Arc de Triomphe stands as a symbol of national unity and is ornamented with four groups of sculpted figures by François Rude, Jean-Pierre Cortot and Antoine Etex. The frieze running around the entablature recounts the departure and return of the French armies. The architect, Chalgrin, had not made any plans for the ornamentation of the inside of the monument. It was in 1835 that the idea emerged to inscribe on the underside of the vault decorated with Roman-style panels the names of the 128 battles of the First Republic and the Empire, together with the names of the Generals who had taken part in them.

Ever since construction was completed, the Arc de Triomphe has been at the centre of major events, such as the return of Napoleon's ashes on December 15th 1840, the Festival of Fraternity in February 1848, and Prince Napoleon Bonaparte's passing through the arch on December 2nd 1852. At the State funeral of Victor Hugo in 1885, his catafalque was placed beneath the arch before his body was taken to the Panthéon. For the Victory celebrations on July 14th 1919, French and Allied troops paraded beneath the arch. On November 11th 1920, a solemn procession transported the body of the Unknown Soldier to the Arc de Triomphe. It was buried beneath the vault to honour the 1,500,000 soldiers who died in battle during the Great War. On November 11th 1923, the Flame of Remembrance was lit on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, consecrating the patriotic and symbolic nature of the Arc de Triomphe. On August 25th 1944, Paris was liberated after four years of occupation, and the following day General de Gaulle descended the Champs-Élysées from the Arc de Triomphe. At 6.30pm every day since 1923, veterans and soldiers have rekindled the Flame.

Place of history, remembrance, gathering and celebration, the Arc de Triomphe is opened to the public by Centre des monuments nationaux.



Key Numbers

16 the number of days the project is up

1000+ people employed to realize the project

14M € the cost of the project, fully financed by Christo and Jeanne-Claude

Christo and Jeanne-Claude

Chronology

1961	Christo and Jeanne-Claude conceive the idea for <i>L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped</i>
1962-63	First photomontage of <i>Wrapped Public Building (Project for Arc de Triomphe, Paris)</i>
1988	Collage of <i>L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped (Project for Paris)</i>
2017	Christo decides to realize <i>L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped</i> in parallel with the Centre Pompidou exhibition, <i>Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Paris!</i> scheduled for 2020
October 2018	Philippe Bélaval (President of CMN) and Christo present the project to Emmanuel Macron, The President of the French Republic
February 2019	Schlaich Bergemann Partner initiates engineering studies for the project
June 2019	Initially planned for April 2020, the installation is postponed for September 2020 due to a crescent falcon nesting on the Arc
Oct-Dec 2019	Christo and his team conduct tests on a scale model with the Charpentier de Paris in Bagneux
February 2020	Setex Textil begin production on the fabric in Germany
April 2020	The project is postponed for a second time to September 2021 due to the pandemic
April - November 2020	The fabric is sewn by Geo-Die Luftwerker in Germany
31 May 2020	Christo passes away in his home in New York, USA
July - October 2020	<i>Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Paris !</i> exhibition at Centre Pompidou
June 2021	Gleistein begins production of the ropes
15 July 2021	First day of installation of the metal cages, scaffolding and weights
12-15 September 2021	Installation of the fabric and the ropes
18 Sep - 3 Oct 2021	Presentation of <i>L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped</i>
10 November 2021	End of deinstallation

Christo and Jeanne-Claude

The Team



Vladimir Yavachev
Project Director, ADT
Wrapped



Karin Barkhorn
Executor of the
Christo and Jeanne-
Claude Estate



Anne Burghartz
Lead engineer, SBP



Soraya Char
Project coordinator,
ADT Wrapped



Vince Davenport
Consulting Engineer



Anna Ezequel
Office coordinator,
ADT Wrapped



Lorenza Giovanelli
Christo Studio



**François-Yves
Jolibois**
Director of Rope access,
Réseau-JADE



Jonathan Henery
Christo Studio



Florence Imbert
Security Expert,
Cronos



Laure Martin
President, ADT
Wrapped



Sébastien Roger
Director of Construc-
tion, Les Charpentiers
de Paris



Jörg Tritthardt
Lead Engineer, Büro
für Leichtbau



Wolfgang Volz
Photographer

Christo and Jeanne-Claude

Partner Companies

ADT WRAPPED COMPAGNIE
PARENT COMPANY

ARCELOR MITTAL
STEEL MANUFACTURER

BIVOUAC
CATERING

BÜRO FÜR LEICHTBAU
FABRIC AND ROPE ENGINEERS

CASSO
FIRE PROOF CERTIFICATION

CHARPENTIER DE PARIS
MASTER BUILDERS

CRONOS
SAFETY AND SECURITY

EVESA
ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS

FREYSSINET
CABLES

GEO-DIE LUFTWERKER
FABRIC SEWING

GLEISTEIN
ROPES

RÉSEAU-JADE
CLIMBERS

MARIANNE INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RESOURCES FOR MEDIATORS

PONTICELLI & FRÈRES
CRANES

QUALICONSULT
TECHNICAL COMPLIANCE

SCHLAICH BERGERMANN PARTNER
CONCEPTUAL ENGINEERS

SETEX TEXTIL
FABRIC

CROIX ROUGE
FIRST RESPONSE

ROWO COATING
FABRIC ALUMINIUM COATING

SECURITAS
SECURITY

TRACTEL
ELEVATOR PLATFORM

MIYAKE DESIGN STUDIO
MONITOR UNIFORMS

ALLBIRDS
MONITOR SHOES

Public Access

As with all of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's projects, *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped* will be free for all and can be visited 24 hours a day from September 18 to October 3. The Arc plateau will be accessible to everyone but as usual, to visit the inside of the monument and access its terrace, the Centre des Monuments Nationaux requires tickets, which are available on their [website](#). Christo and Jeanne-Claude have always noted that they "inherit" the places of their projects as they are, without altering the existing conditions.

The monument will remain open to the public as usual: every day from 10h00 to 23h00, during the entire duration of the project (installation, exhibition, dismantling).

Arc Plateau Tunnel

Hours: 6h00 - 1h00

Entry Point: Champs-Élysées

Exit Point: Grande Armée

(On weekdays, the tunnel will be closed between 1h00 and 6h00)

Weekends

September 18, 19, 25, 26, and October 2,3

From 6h00 on Saturdays to 2h00 on Monday, Place de L'Étoile - Charles de Gaulle will be closed to traffic circulation and it will become a pedestrian zone. Parking will be available around the perimeter.

Pedestrian Zone

Saturdays 9:00 to 00:00 on Sunday

Entry Points: Grande Armée, Wagram, Friedland, Champs-Élysées, Kleber

Exit: Carnot, Mac-Mahon, Hoche, Marceau, Iena, Victor Hugo, Foch

Covid-19

A health pass is mandatory to enter the Arc plateau throughout the week and the pedestrian zone on weekends, for anyone aged 18 and over. Beginning September 30, 2021, a health pass will also be needed for people aged 12-17.

Documentation of at least one of the following is required:

- Proof of full vaccination
- Negative RT-PCR or antigen test within 72 hours
- Proof of Covid-19 recovery (positive test RT-PCR or antigen test within the last 6 months)

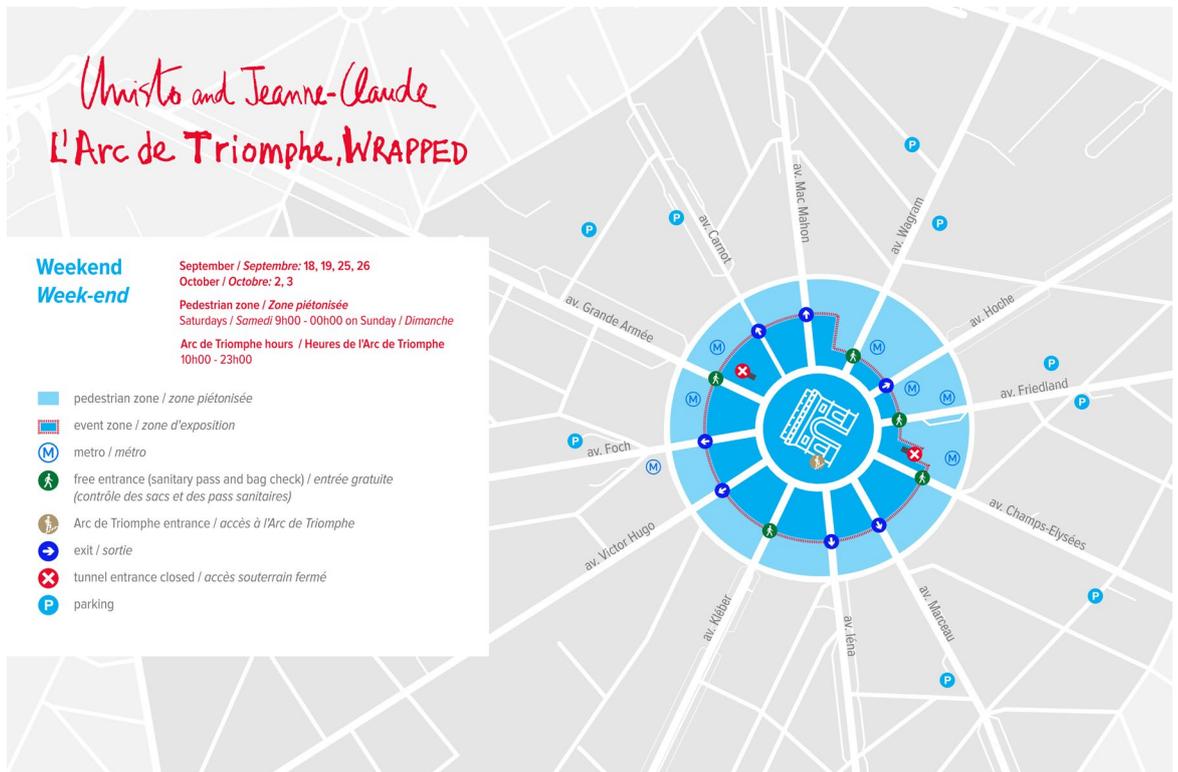
Public Safety

Christo and Jeanne-Claude's team is working closely with the Centre des monuments nationaux, the City of Paris, and the Préfecture de Police to ensure public safety and the best visitor experience of the artwork. A professional security team will also be on site 7 days a week, 24 hours a day during the entire duration of the project (installation, exhibition, dismantling) to help ensure public safety. A perimeter will be put in place around the Arc and access to the Arc plateau will be subject to regulatory measures depending on the flow of visitors.

Fabric Samples

A team of monitors will welcome visitors on site from September 18 to October 3 to represent the project, answer questions, and distribute **free** fabric samples.

Maps



Access to the Arc de Triomphe Museum and Terrace

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

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.

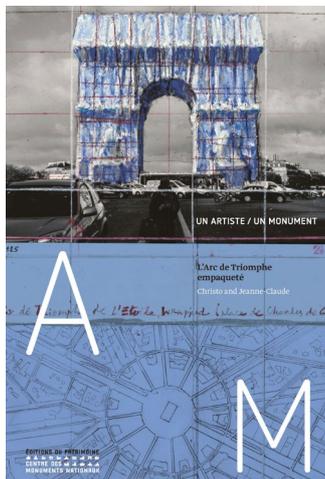
Public transport:

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.



AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE ARC DE TRIOMPHE STORE

The Centre des monuments nationaux has created a collection of products inspired by *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped*, which is being sold at the shop of the Arc de Triomphe. The collection includes a catalogue presenting the project and all sales benefit CMN. The Christo V. Javacheff Estate receives no income from the sale of these products.

Christo and Jeanne-Claude

Social Media

#ChristoParis

Christo and Jeanne-Claude

www.christojeanneclaude.net

(high resolution images for use available in press section)

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Centre des monuments nationaux

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