

Christo and Jeanne-Claude: The Gates, Central Park, New York City (Poster Portfolios)



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Wolfgang Volz

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In February 2005, Christo and Jeanne-Claude will complete a monumental work of art in New York City's Central Park. The project, first conceived in 1979, will feature 7500 16-foot-high vinyl gates lining the park's paths, from which will hang saffron-colored fabric panels. Seen from the buildings surrounding the park, The Gates will look like a golden, flowing river, while those walking through them will experience the ambience of a fluid, golden ceiling. Financed entirely by artists through their C.V.J. Corporation, The Gates are to be fabricated and assembled In local factories and installed by local workers, thus providing employment for thousands of New York City residents. The temporary work of art will remain in place for 16 days, after which it will be disassembled and the materials recycled. The installation will be free for all visitors, who can continue to use Central Park undisturbed during the whole process. This historic event is intended to provide a memorable and Joyous experience for every New Yorker, and TASCHEN will document this project from start to finish in two editions. A first edition will be published in January 2005, containing photo documents and preparatory drawings for The Gates. In February 2005, directly after the installation has been realized, a second edition will be published, containing 16 extra pages showing photographs of the completed work of art.

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32 pages

About the Author

Christo and Jeanne-Claude, both born on June 13, 1935, have been working in collaboration since 1961, Previous large-scale projects include Wrapped Coast, Australia, 1968 - 69, Valley Curtain, Grand Hogback, Rifle, Colorado, 1970 - 72, Running Fence, Sonoma and Marin Counties, California, 1972 - 76, Surrounded Islands, Biscayne Bay, Greater Miami, Florida, 1980 - 83, The Pont Neuf Wrapped, Paris, 1975 - 85, The Umbrellas, Japan - USA, 1984 - 91, Wrapped Reichstag, Berlin, 1971 - 95, Wrapped Trees, Riehen, Switzerland, 1997 - 98. Wolfgang Volz has been working with Christo and Jeanne-Claude since 1971 and was project director (with Roland Specker) for Wrapped Reichstag and (with Josy Kraft) for Wrapped Trees and he was in charge of The Wall, 13,000 Oil Barrels, 1999. He is the exclusive photographer of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's works. This close collaboration has resulted in many books and more than 300 exhibitions in museums and galleries around the world. Wolfgang Volz and his wife and partner, Sylvia Volz, live and work in Dusseldorf, Germany. Jonathan William Henery is the son of Jeanne-Claude's sister, Joyce May Henery. In 1993, he received a Bachelor of Arts from Fordham University. He is a musician and has been Jeanne Claude's full-time assistant since 1996.

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