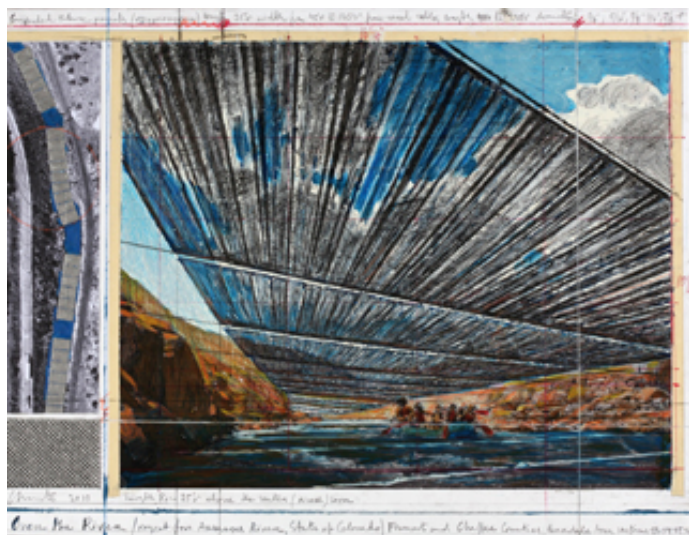


Release Date: November 8, 2011

Christo Donates Two Preparatory Collages for *Over The River* Project to National Gallery of Art, Washington

On View with Related Works from Gallery Collection through January 23, 2012



Christo, *Over the River (Project for Arkansas River, State of Colorado)*, 2010, collage
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of the artist
Photo by André Grossmann © Christo 2010

Washington, DC—The artist Christo presented the National Gallery of Art with two original preparatory collages for *Over The River*, both dating from 2010, for the Gallery's permanent collection. The gifts were unveiled during a press conference on November 8, 2011, with Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, a day after Interior's Bureau of Land Management officially approved *Over The River*, a project for the Arkansas River in Colorado that Christo developed with his late wife and collaborator, Jeanne-Claude. The collages are on view with four earlier related works by Christo in the lobby of the East Building Auditorium through January 23, 2012.

"We are honored to receive from Christo two stunning collages illustrating his vision for

Over The River. They will join nearly 80 works by Christo and Jeanne-Claude already in our collection," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art. "The Gallery has enjoyed the privilege of a long and close relationship with Christo and Jeanne-Claude."

"I am very pleased to present these works to the National Gallery on this exciting day following the federal government's approval of *Over The River*," said Christo. "This prominent art institution is home to one of the world's largest collections of my works, and today I am pleased to add to that collection through the gift of two preparatory collages about this project."

The gift, alongside the Gallery's existing collection of preparatory works on paper from various stages of this project—two early drawings from 1992 and two large collages from 2000—illustrates Christo's working process and brings to light the project's development as it has evolved over the past two decades.

In 2002, the National Gallery of Art presented the first survey mounted in the United States encompassing four decades of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's work, all drawn from the contemporary art collection of Dorothy and Herbert Vogel.

About *Over The River*

Over The River is a temporary work of art first proposed in 1992 by Christo and Jeanne-Claude. For this work, Christo will suspend 5.9 miles of silvery fabric panels high above the Arkansas River interstitially along a 42-mile stretch between Salida and Cañon City in Colorado. Fabric panels will be suspended at eight distinct areas of the river that were selected by the artists for their aesthetic merits and technical viability. If the permit process moves forward as planned, Christo hopes to present *Over The River* for two consecutive weeks in August 2014. Information about the project is located at www.OverTheRiverInfo.com.

About Christo and Jeanne-Claude

For a half-century, Christo and Jeanne-Claude, both born in 1935, have created large-scale, temporary works of art in both urban and rural environments. These projects have challenged the traditional definitions of sculpture and artistic practice while creating a

new discourse for issues concerning the environment and aesthetics. Since Jeanne-Claude's death in November 2009, Christo has continued their work on *Over The River* and other projects.

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General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets along Constitution Avenue NW and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. With the exception of the atrium and library, the galleries in the East Building will be closing gradually beginning in July 2013 and will remain closed for approximately three years for Master Facilities Plan and renovations. For specific updates on gallery closings, visit www.nga.gov/renovation (<http://www.nga.gov/renovation>).

For information call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's website at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt and on Twitter at twitter.com/ngadc.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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