SUMMER 2017

MUSE LETTER

image: The Umbrellas, joint project for Japan and USA, 1991. Blue, Japan. Christo and Jeanne-Claude. The Tom Golden Collection

Biggs Museum of American Art

The Umbrellas (joint project for Japan and USA)
IT’S A WRAP
Christo and Jeanne-Claude: The Tom Golden Collection
Opening Reception: Friday, August 4 from 5-7 p.m.

WHEN: August 4- October 22, 2017

You’re invited to the unveiling of one of the museum’s most ambitious art exhibitions in its 25 years. Christo and Jeanne-Claude: The Tom Golden Collection chronicles the exciting careers of one of the most important artist duos in recent world history. View information about the related public programs listed in the centerfold of this Museletter and at www.biggsmuseum.org.

WHO:
Christo, born Christo Vladimirov Javacheff in Bulgaria in 1935, and Jeanne-Claude, born Jeanne-Claude Marie Denat in Monaco, also in 1935, married in 1958. They soon started collaborating on large-scale art projects in Europe that caused viewers to reevaluate their own relationships to familiar and important locations in both rural and urban environments.

WHAT:
The exhibition includes works of art created by Christo and Jeanne-Claude including prints, drawings, collages, photographs, and sculptures that celebrate the ideas and planning of each of their massive and complex installations through the world. They sold their planning documents and artworks to collectors and museums to finance their next big project. The Tom Golden Collection is a large collection of Christo and Jeanne-Claude’s artworks that were acquired by Tom Golden, who acted as engineer on several of their installations.

WHERE:
For more than 40 years, Christo and Jeanne-Claude have created temporary environmental installation art in Europe, Japan and America. Their body of work includes many well-known projects including the fabric-wrapping of the Reichstag government building in Berlin and the Pont Neuf bridge in Paris, the 24-mile long curtain titled “Running Fence” in California, “The Gates” project in New York City’s Central Park and most recently the orange floating piers across a lake in Italy.

HOW:
When they built hundreds of larger-than life umbrellas and planted them on two different continents straddling the Pacific Ocean, when they planted metal archways across 20 miles of paths in New York’s Central Park, when they wrapped some of Europe’s most iconic buildings, Christo and Jeanne-Claude created artworks that reflect their experience in planning, engineering, seeking approvals, coordinating attention, gaining public support and ultimately implementing their massive designs. These artful records were sold to collectors and museums to finance the next large-scale installation.

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WHY:
As partners for more than 40 years, Christo and Jeanne-Claude created environmental installation art throughout the world that has had a most profound public reaction. They are foundational figures in the emergence of contemporary art, can be found in all the major text books on the subject and have influenced countless artists and designers. This exhibition demonstrates the breadth and detail of their shared experience in the arts. The exhibition was organized by the Sonoma County Museum, Santa Rosa, CA. Exhibition Tour Management by Landau Traveling Exhibitions, Los Angeles, CA.