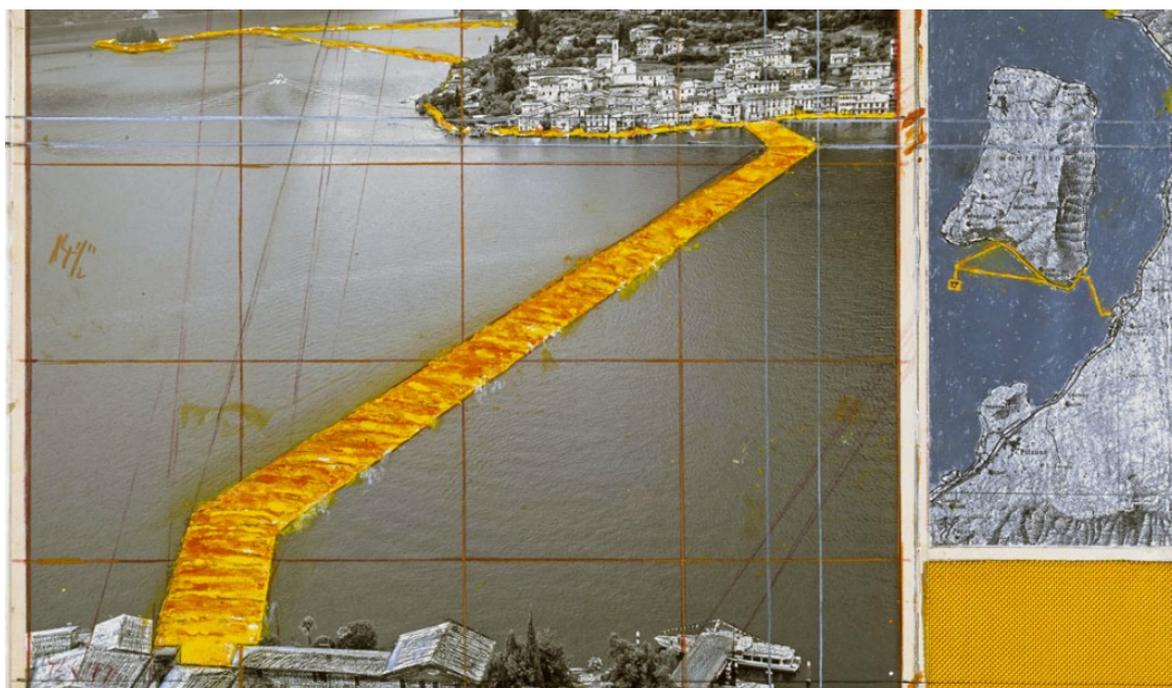


Christo and Jeanne-Claude “Works in Progress” at Galerie Gmurzynska

BY NICHOLAS FORREST | FEBRUARY 15, 2016



Christo The Floating Piers (Project for Lake Iseo, Italy) Collage 2014 17 x 22" (43.2 x 55.9 cm) Pencil, wax crayon, enamel paint, photograph by Wolfgang Volz, map, fabric sample and tape
Photo: André Grossmann © 2014 Christo

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Galerie Gmurzynska is hosting a major selling exhibition at its gallery in St. Moritz, Switzerland, in celebration of the 2016 launch of environmental artist Christo's (born 1935) first large scale project since he and his late wife, Jeanne-Claude (1935–2009), realized "The Gates" in 2005.

"Christo & Jeanne-Claude. Works in Progress" brings together sketches, drawings, and photo collages from three of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's works in progress: two as yet unrealized, "The Mastaba" in Abu Dhabi and "Over The River" in Colorado; and the soon to be realized "[Floating Piers](http://www.thefloatingpiers.com/)" in Italy.

"As the title suggests, the selling exhibition focuses on 'Works in Progress,' and in Christo's case the planning for a project can take over 20 years until it is realized" explains Mathias Rastorfer, CEO and Co-owner of Galerie Gmurzynska. "Our exhibition focuses on three such long term projects."

“The Mastaba,” a project conceived in 1977 for Abu Dhabi, will be the largest sculpture in the world when it is completed. Made from 410,000 multi-colored barrels to form “a mosaic of bright sparkling colors” that echoes Islamic architecture,” it will be 150 meters high and 300 meters wide.

“Over The River,” which has been postponed due to impending litigation by a small, local group opposed to this temporary work, proposes that 5.9 miles of silvery, luminous fabric panels be suspended high above the Arkansas River in south-central Colorado.

Marking Christo’s return to Italy for the first time in 40 years and the first project he will finish since the death of his wife in 2009, “[The Floating Piers](http://www.thefloatingpiers.com/), (<http://www.thefloatingpiers.com/>)” which is scheduled to be launched in the summer of this year, from June 18 to July 3, will see Italy’s Lake Iseo reimaged.

According to Christo, “70,000 square meters of shimmering yellow fabric, carried by a modular floating dock system of 200,000 high-density polyethylene cubes, will undulate with the movement of the waves as ‘The Floating Piers’ rise just above the surface of the water.”

The floating piers will extend across the water of Lake Iseo, creating a 3-kilometer walkway that will enable visitors to walk from Sulzano to Monte Isola and to the island of San Paolo, which it encircles. The fabric will continue along 1.5 kilometers of pedestrian streets in Sulzano and Peschiera Maraglio.

The exhibition at Galerie Gmurzynska will provide visitors with a preview of the ambitious and exciting “The Floating Piers,” which is being developed in collaboration with the renowned critic and curator Germano Celant, Artistic Director of the Prada Foundation.

Commenting on the project, Mathias Rastorfer says it “shows the unbroken strength and dedication of Christo in a time of more short lived contemporary art trends and artists careers” and “exemplifies the best qualities of the great artists of the 20th century: depth and long-term dedication.”

“Christo & Jeanne-Claude. Works in Progress” is at Galerie Gmurzynska until March 30, 2016 (<http://gmurzynska.com/>).