

NOTE

This exhibition shows 21 of Christo's drawings and collages from "Wrapped Reichstag: Project for Berlin", which the artist has been steadily working on since 1972. As we already have had two shows on Christo, in April of both 1982 and 1984, this will be our third one.

An important point of this catalogue, which we have prepared, is a long interview with Christo. The interview was conducted by Mr. Masahiko Yanagi at the artist's studio on July 5th, 1986. It reveals new facts on the "Reichstag" project as well as many of the artist's other concepts. Another important document is the chronology of the "Reichstag" project, which covers the 15 years of the project — how it had started, and how it has been developing. Both the interview and the chronology were edited by Mr. Masahiko Yanagi and Ms. Harriet Irgang, and were translated into Japanese by Mr. Yoshiro Nakashima, who is well acquainted with Germany. I would like to extend sincere appreciation to these three people for their cooperation and contribution to this catalogue. In addition to this catalogue, we have also printed Reichstag posters for this occasion.

I would like to express some of my recent thoughts on Christo here. First, Christo is an artist who provides us with much spiritual energy. What he does is accomplish projects which seem almost impossible. In other words, he realizes dreams. Having a dream is one thing, but making it real is quite another. It takes immense energy to realize a dream, and it is this energy that moves and touches people. I understand that one of the most important tests of "fine" art is whether it provides people with energy and excitement; Christo's work certainly fulfills this test.

Secondly, I'd like to mention his fine drawing ability. His drawings, beautiful and vivid, not only serve the practical purpose as being the plans of his project, but are great art themselves. They enhance and enrich the significance of his whole

work.

Thirdly, I would like to point out the important role his wife, Mrs. Jeanne-Claude Christo, plays in Christo's work. When one examines how one project is carried out from its initiation to its final stage of realization, one would recognize the project is also a kind of business which requires a great sense of financial management in the background; and this is where Mrs. Christo excels. Incidentally and to our surprise, they were born on the same day, in the same year (June 13th, 1935) and this seems to me a most mysterious and magical fact that symbolizes the unbreakable bond between them. If a medal was to be struck in honor of Christo and his work, one day, it would have Christo's portrait on one side, and that of Mrs. Christo on the other.

The realization of the "Reichstag" project has enormous meaning, not only in terms of art, but in a political sense as well. It surely will become one "merkmal" (milestone) of East-West détente, since its realization is contingent upon the agreement of West Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, the U.S.S.R., and East Germany. "Pont-Neuf Wrapped: Project in Paris" happened to be approved a few months after our "Pont-Neuf" exhibition in Tokyo and was realized a year later. The "Wrapped Reichstag", I hope and pray, will also be realized as smoothly.

Mr. and Mrs. Christo are planning to visit Japan for this exhibition, and they are also taking this opportunity to search for the site for another project-in-progress — "Umbrella". This project will plant 3,000 umbrellas (8 meters in diameter, and 6 meters in height), and it is planned to take place both in Japan and on the West Coast of California simultaneously — blue umbrellas in Japan, yellow in California. This is their second attempt at finding a location for this project; this past April, they drove 3,700 kilometers throughout Japan in search of a site. I would like to wish them good health and a fruitful stay in Japan.

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