

Over The River (project for Arkansas River, State of Colorado)

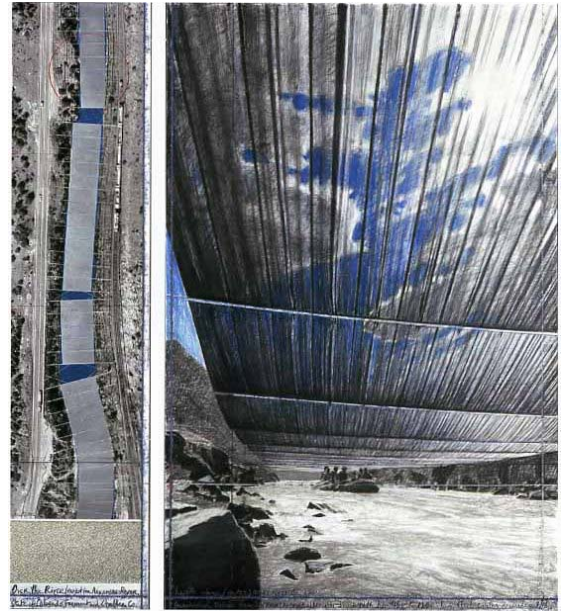
Fact Sheet

Over The River is a two-week temporary work of art by internationally acclaimed artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude whose recent work, *The Gates* in New York City's Central Park, garnered worldwide praise. For *Over The River*, the artists plan to suspend 5.9 miles of silvery, luminous fabric panels high above the Arkansas River along a 42-mile stretch of the river between Salida and Cañon City in south-central 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. Christo received Federal approval for the project in November 2011 and is currently working to obtain the last remaining permits. Assuming the approval process runs as planned, *Over The River* will be exhibited for two consecutive weeks in August of 2015.

The Over The River Experience

For *Over The River*, Christo and Jeanne-Claude's vision is to suspend eight separate areas of fabric panels that highlight the contours of the river banks. Seen from underneath, the translucent fabric panels will enhance the contrast of the clouds, mountains and vegetation. These waves of fabric will play off the natural lighting throughout the day, transitioning from shimmering pink in the morning light, to shiny silver in the mid-day sun, to golden as the sun sets.

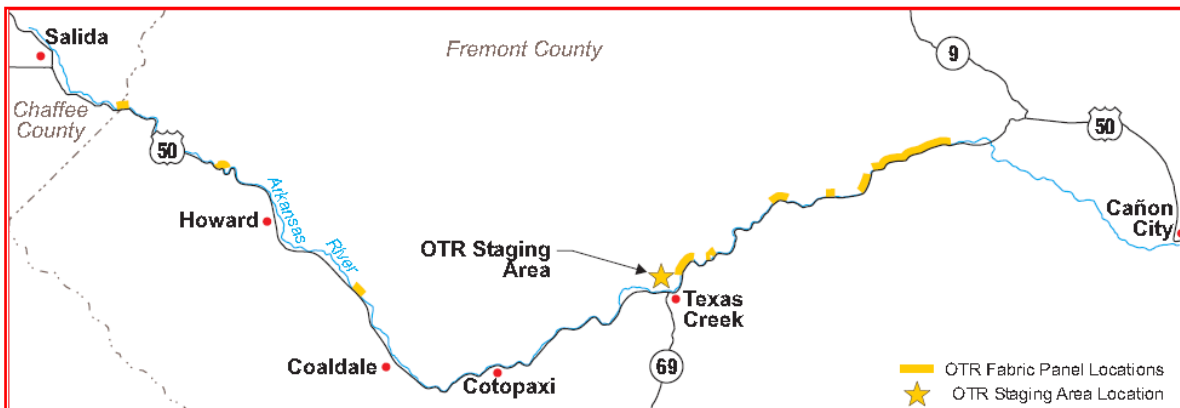
From the water level, the rafters, kayakers and canoeists on the Arkansas River will view blue sky, white cloud formations and the undulating mountain skyline through the fabric panels. Those viewing the art from above on Highway 50 will see fabric panels that reflect the colors of the sky while moving with the wind like waves in the ocean. The eight distinct sections will total 5.9 miles of fabric panels, with each segment varying in length from 0.3 to 2.5 miles. The fabric panels will be suspended 8 to 25 feet above the water, depending on the height of the banks. Between the waves of fabric panels, there will be a total of 36.1 miles of interruptions, leaving those areas of the river and natural landscape untouched. Each pause between fabric panel sections will vary in length from 0.7 to 15.5 miles.



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Photo: Wolfgang Volz

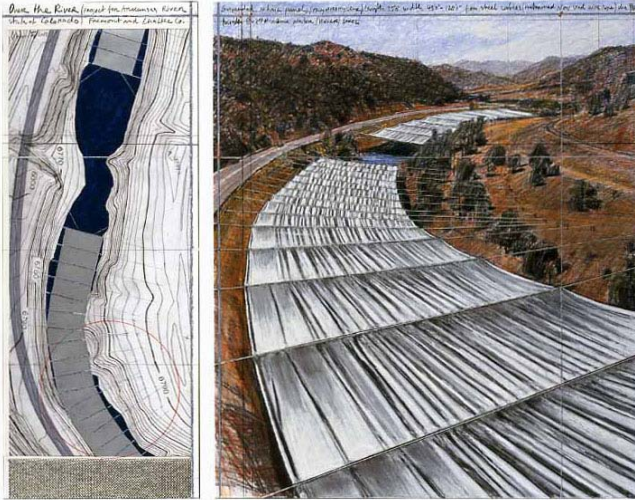
Paying for Over The River

Through the sale of Christo's original works of art, he will fund 100-percent of costs associated with the permitting process, manufacturing, installation and removal of *Over The River*. Christo will pay all direct expenses to create the temporary work of art, as well as costs that result from it (e.g. environmental analysis, traffic control, trash removal and sanitation). The temporary work of art will be created without public subsidy or taxpayer support, and Christo and Jeanne-Claude have never accepted viewing fees, sponsorships or outside investments of any kind.



A Gift to Colorado

The artists' previous works have drawn art lovers from across the globe, and *Over The River* will be no exception. Viewers from across Colorado and the rest of the world are expected to come enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime event. Along with the Denver Art Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Fine Arts Center in Colorado Springs and the Clyfford Still Museum, *Over The River* will join with other local cultural institutions to enhance Colorado's growing prominence in the art world. It will provide a gift that all Coloradans can enjoy.



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Photo: Wolfgang Volz

Installing *Over The River*

As with previous works of art in urban or rural environments, Christo will continue his and Jeanne-Claude's unprecedented commitment to respecting and protecting the environment while creating *Over The River*. The installation team will work closely with nearby communities, federal and local governments and other agencies to avoid or minimize impacts associated with traffic, recreation, wildlife and the environment.

Over The River will be installed in several phases over two years. Current plans call for professional crews to first identify pre-determined anchor points and then install the anchors and the anchor transition frames (ATFs). Several months before fabric panel installation, cables will be connected to

the ATFs. Fabric panels will then be attached to the cables with specially designed carabiners. In the final week of installation, *Over The River* will "blossom" as crews begin pulling fabric panels into position above the river. The temporary work of art will be on display for two consecutive weeks. After the viewing period, the fabric panels will be removed within two weeks. The complete removal of all visible project components will take only a few months, weather permitting, and all surface-level holes will be refilled. The ground will be restored to its original contours, and any areas requiring re-vegetation will be seeded with a native plant mix.

About the Artists

Christo and his late wife Jeanne-Claude have spent more than 40 years creating highly celebrated works of art around the world. They have a son, Cyril, born in 1960, married to Marie Wilkinson, and a grandson, Lysander, born in 2005. As a unique, dynamic, creative team, Christo and Jeanne-Claude changed the concept of "public art" by creating works that are truly transitory by design. The artists' goal has always been to create works of art of joy and beauty. Their previous works include *Valley Curtain* in Rifle, CO (1972), *Wrapped Reichstag* in Berlin (1995), and their highly acclaimed installation *The Gates, Central Park, New York City* (2005).



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