

Christo and Jeanne-Claude

The Gates

and Unrealized
Projects for New York City

EXHIBITION AT THE SHED

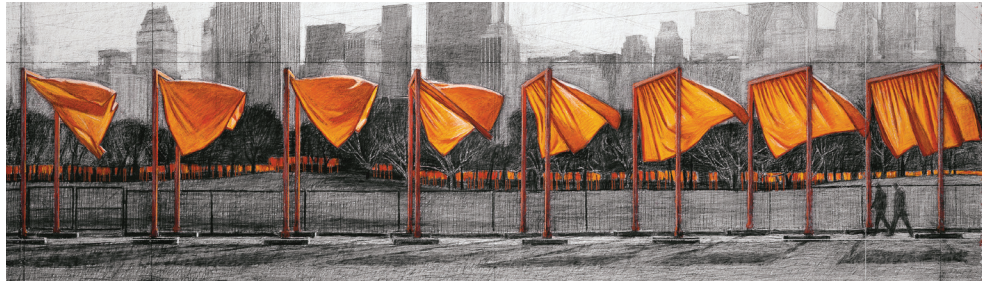
FEBRUARY 12–MARCH 23, 2025

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Christo, *The Gates* (Project for Central Park, New York City), 2004–2005. Photo: André Grossmann / © Christo and Jeanne-Claude Foundation

The Gates, by renowned artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude, was a large-scale, temporary public artwork consisting of 7,503 saffron-colored gates adorned with free-flowing fabric, spanning 23 miles of pathways in Central Park. Over its 16 days on display in February 2005, the artwork attracted over four million visitors.

This year's milestone anniversary provides an opportunity to bring *The Gates* and its legacy to more people through original artwork, film, and digital technology.

An Instructional Guide for Teachers and Students

► QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE SHED

***The Gates* was designed for a particular place and time.**

- What did you learn in the exhibition about how and why the artists incorporated Central Park into their work?
- Why do you think the color saffron was chosen?
- How do people interact with art in public spaces compared to in museums or galleries? How does the location of this artwork affect its meaning or the viewer's experience?
- How does experiencing *The Gates* through the interactive map affect your perception or understanding of the artwork in the exhibition?
- Many public art pieces in city buildings and subway stations are permanent. How does that affect the way you view and experience them?
- What other public art have you seen? How did this work shape your perception of the surrounding area? Does the impact of public art change if the work is temporary?

Gates and gateways have been found in cities across the globe, from ancient times to today.

- What defines a gate or gateway?
- How might a gate hold different meaning for New Yorkers than for visitors? What symbolic meaning might *The Gates* have for visitors? For New Yorkers?

► QUESTIONS ABOUT CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE'S UNREALIZED PROJECTS

Also on view are several projects the artists proposed for New York City that were never realized.

- Why do you think it was so difficult for these projects to get approval?
- How do you think the projects would have enhanced or changed their surroundings if they had been realized?

► QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION, RESEARCH, AND ENGAGEMENT

At the exhibition, see Christo's drawings and collages of *The Gates* and other proposed projects.

- Photograph or sketch your neighborhood park, then design an art installation for it. How would your artwork enhance or transform your park?
- What issues need to be considered when selecting the location for your installation at this site?
- What thoughts or emotions do you want your installation to evoke in viewers?
- Would your installation be temporary or permanent, and why?

Research other art installations you may not have noticed before experiencing *The Gates* exhibition.

- What public art or temporary art installations have you seen in your neighborhood or hometown?
- What aspects of those works do you like or dislike?
- How has the public reacted to the artwork, and did you agree or disagree?
- In what ways has the artwork transformed its environment?



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#THEGATES #CHRISTOJEANNECLAUDE