Christo was born on June 13, 1935 in Gabrovo, Bulgaria. He left Bulgaria in 1956, first to Prague, Czechoslovakia, and then escaped to Vienna, Austria, in 1957, then moved to Geneva, Switzerland. In 1958, Christo went to Paris, where he met Jeanne-Claude Denat de Guillebon, not only his wife but life partner in the creation of monumental environmental works of art. Jeanne-Claude passed away on November 18, 2009. Christo died on May 31, 2020 at his home in New York City, where he lived for 56 years.

From early wrapped objects to monumental outdoor projects, Christo and Jeanne-Claude's artwork transcended the traditional bounds of painting, sculpture, and architecture. Some of their work included *Wrapped Coast* near Sydney (1968–69), *Valley Curtain* in Colorado (1970–72), *Running Fence* in California (1972–76), *Surrounded Islands* in Miami (1980–83), *The Pont Neuf Wrapped* in Paris (1975–85), *The Umbrellas* in Japan and California (1984–91), *Wrapped Reichstag* in Berlin (1972–95), *The Gates* in New York's Central Park (1979–2005), *The Floating Piers* at Italy's Lake Iseo (2014–16), and *The London Mastaba* on London's Serpentine Lake (2016–18).

Following the completion of *L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped, Paris, 1961–2021*, Christo and Jeanne-Claude's team has returned focus on the artists's only permanent, large-scale public artwork: *The Mastaba, Project for United Arab Emirates*, started in 1977.