

Christo and Jeanne-Claude

## LONDON 2018

**THE MASTABA  
(PROJECT FOR LONDON, HYDE PARK, SERPENTINE LAKE)**

**SERPENTINE GALLERY EXHIBITION  
BARRELS AND THE MASTABA 1958–2018**

#ChristoLondon | sgtours.org

## CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE THE LONDON MASTABA

18 June – 23 September 2018

Christo and his late wife Jeanne-Claude are among the world's most celebrated artists, known for their ambitious, large-scale works of art that alter both the physical form and visual appearance of sites for a short period of time, before returning environments to their original states. Their many celebrated public projects include *Wrapped Coast*, Sydney, Australia, 1968–69; *Wrapped Reichstag*, Berlin, 1971–95; *The Gates*, Central Park, New York City, 1979–2005; and more recently *The Floating Piers*, Lake Iseo, Italy, 2014–16. Their work is represented in museums and galleries internationally, including the Guggenheim and Metropolitan museums in New York, Tate in London and the Pompidou Centre in Paris.

*The Mastaba (Project for London, Hyde Park, Serpentine Lake)*, a temporary sculpture made of stacked barrels, is Christo's first major public outdoor work in the UK. The geometric form of this sculpture takes inspiration from ancient mastabas – benches with two vertical sides, two slanted sides and a flat top – which originate from the first urban civilisations of Mesopotamia. Twenty metres in height, the structure consists of 7,506 horizontally-stacked coloured barrels, specifically

fabricated and painted in hues of red, blue, mauve and white, and secured on a floating platform. All materials are certified as having low environmental impact to preserve the ecosystem of the lake. An Ecological Enhancement Strategy was also developed with The Royal Parks. The sculpture is being paid for entirely by the artist, through the sale of his original works of art.

This sculpture coincides with a Serpentine Galleries exhibition of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's work, specifically their use of barrels over sixty years. Together, *The London Mastaba* and exhibition present an opportunity to experience the vision and ambitions of these pioneering artists.

**CHRISTOJEANNECLAUDE.NET**  
**TWITTER: @CHRISTOANDJC**  
**INSTAGRAM: @CHRISTOJEANNECLAUDE**  
**FACEBOOK: CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE OFFICIAL**

## CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE EXHIBITION SERPENTINE GALLERY

19 June – 9 September 2018

Open 10am–6pm daily, Free

The Serpentine Galleries presents the first major exhibition by Christo and Jeanne-Claude in the UK since 1979. Through sculptures, drawings, collages, photographs and models, it traces the artists' sixty-year-history of using barrels and provides an historic context to *The London Mastaba*.

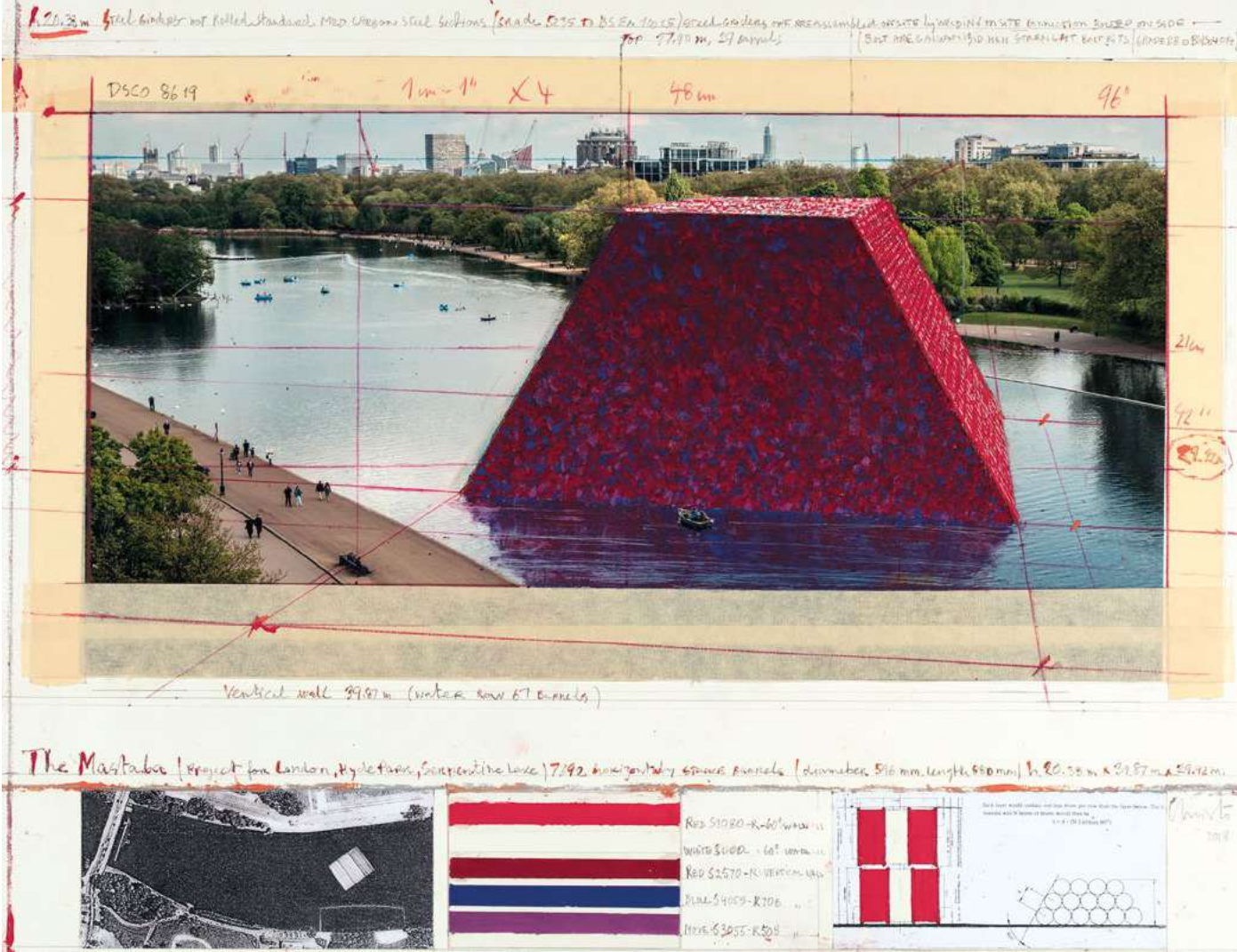
Christo began using the barrel form in 1958, initially with cans before moving to disused barrels, finding them a suitable material due to their sculptural effect and low cost. The exhibition offers new perspectives on the artists' career by exploring the origins of their earliest wrapped works and first temporary sculptures, alongside proposals for barrel projects at sites such as the Suez Canal (1967) and the Museum of Modern Art, New York (1968). It also includes drawings for Christo and Jeanne-Claude's most ambitious mastaba yet, *The Mastaba (Project for United Arab Emirates)*, which was first conceived in 1977 and if realised would be the world's largest sculpture.

Serpentine Galleries summer season includes Tomma Abts and the Serpentine Pavilion 2018 designed by Frida Escobedo.

**SERPENTINEGALLERIES.ORG**  
**@SERPENTINEUK**  
**SGTOURS.ORG**

HEADLINE EXHIBITION SUPPORTER

**Bloomberg  
Philanthropies**



## THE ROYAL PARKS

The Royal Parks is a charity created in March 2017 and officially launched in July 2017 to support and manage 5,000 acres of Royal parkland across London.

It looks after eight of London's largest open spaces; Hyde, The Green, Richmond, Greenwich, St James's, Bushy and The Regent's Parks, and Kensington Gardens. It also manages other open spaces in the capital, including Brompton Cemetery and Victoria Tower Gardens.

*The London Mastaba* is a welcome addition to Hyde Park this summer, bringing internationally acclaimed art into the park for visitors to enjoy for free. The Royal Parks has worked very closely with Christo and his team on this project and as a result The Serpentine lake will benefit from substantial investment after the sculpture has gone.

This includes ecological improvements on Serpentine Island and creating new habitats, including terrestrial invertebrate habitat creation, waterfowl refuges, heron baskets and bird and bat boxes. Works will improve conditions in the lake, including litter clearance and the re-treatment of Phoslock on the lakebed, to reduce the growth of harmful algae, and are scheduled to take place at a time to cause minimal disruption to wildlife and habitats.

**ROYALPARKS.ORG.UK**  
**@THEROYALPARKS**  
**FACEBOOK: THE ROYAL PARKS LONDON**

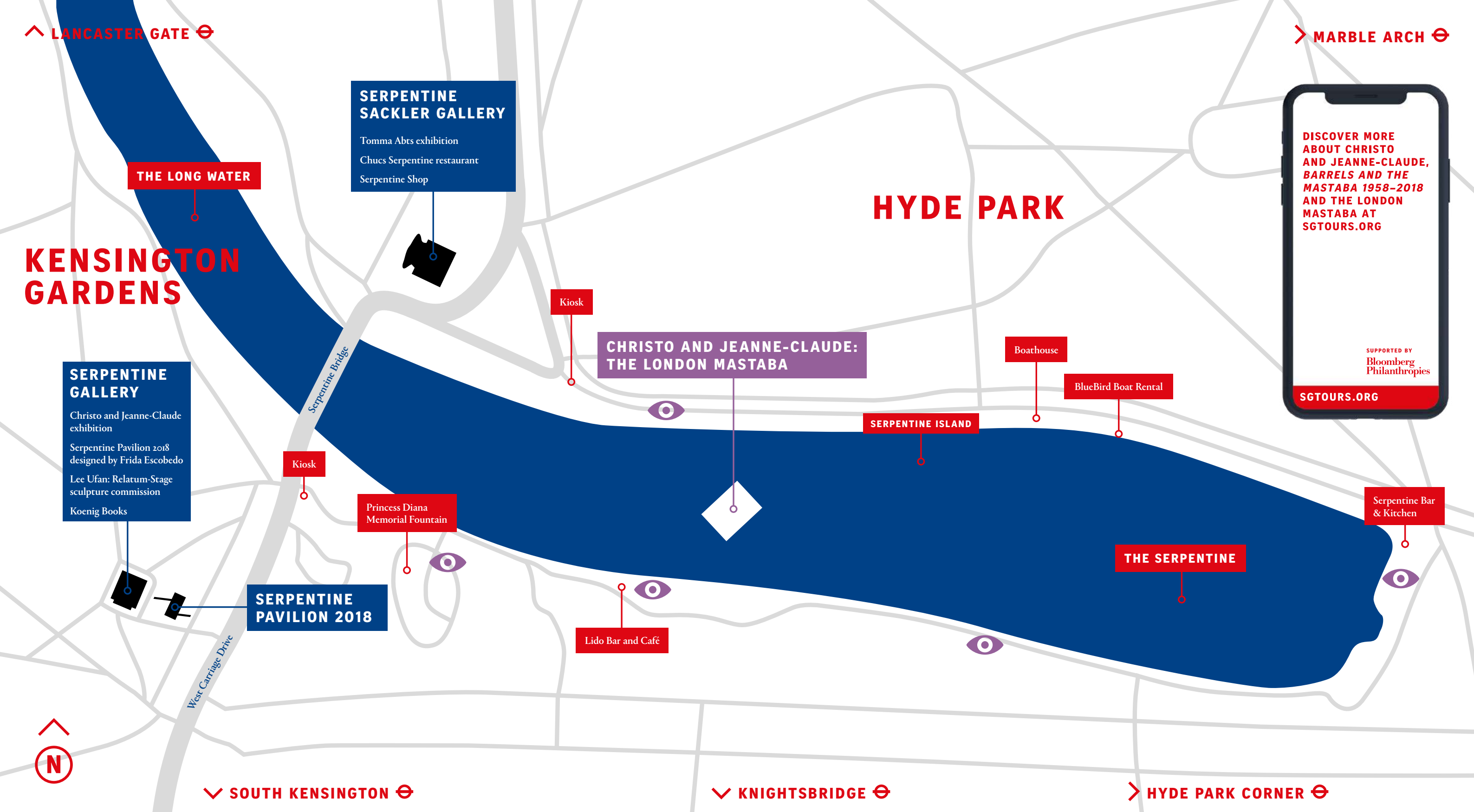


**MAIN IMAGE**  
Christo, *The Mastaba (Project for London, Hyde Park, Serpentine Lake)*, Collage 2018: 43.1 x 55.9, Pencil, wax crayon, enamel paint, colour photograph by Wolfgang Volz, map, technical data, mylar and tape, Photo: André Grossmann © 2018 Christo

**ABOVE**  
Christo and Jeanne-Claude  
*28 Barrels Structure* 1968, 265 x 278 x 68 cm, Private collection, courtesy Fondazione Marconi, Milan

**SERPENTINE  
GALLERIES**





## CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE THE LONDON MASTABA FACTS

7,506 barrels, specifically fabricated and painted for this sculpture

20 metres high x 30 metres wide x 40 metres long

55 gallon barrels are painted hues of red, blue, mauve and white

500 tonnes in weight

The footprint of the sculpture will take up less than 1% of the total surface area of the lake

The sculpture is being funded entirely by the artist

## THE SERPENTINE LAKE

Queen Caroline, the wife of King George II, created The Serpentine lake in Hyde Park and the Long Water in Kensington Gardens, from 1726-1730. It was one of the first man-made lakes in England. It follows the shape of the valley of the Westbourne Stream, which now flows underground.

## VISITOR INFORMATION

No touching or climbing on the sculpture

Do not disturb or feed the birds, fish or wildlife

Hyde Park open daily 5am – midnight

Serpentine Galleries open daily 10am – 6pm

BlueBird Boat rentals

## BEST VANTAGE POINTS

Serpentine Bar & Kitchen

Lido Bar and Café

South bank of lake

Northwest bank of lake

Princess Diana Memorial Fountain

## NEAREST TUBES

Knightsbridge

Hyde Park Corner

Marble Arch

Lancaster Gate

South Kensington

## EATING, DRINKING, SHOPPING

Chucs Serpentine

Serpentine Shop

Lido Bar and Café

Boathouse

## DISABLED ACCESS

Liberty Drives provides free mobility for The Royal Parks

Full disabled access at Serpentine Galleries

## TOILETS

Serpentine Bar & Kitchen

Lido Bar and Café

Serpentine Galleries