Christo and 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.

Christo and Jeanne-Claude's work, specifically their use of barrels in their landscape projects, has been a cornerstone of their practice for over sixty years. This close examination of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's work, specifically their use of barrels, allows us to recognize the importance of their work in the context of contemporary environmental art. Their use of barrels as a material provides a unique opportunity to explore the intersection of art and the environment, as well as to consider the role of art in shaping our understanding of the natural world.
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.

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.

7,506 barrels, specifically fabricated and painted for this sculpture:
- 10 metres high x 30 metres wide
- 99 gallon barrels are painted hues of red, blue, mauve and white
- 500 tonnes in weight

The sculpture is being funded entirely by the artist.

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Chucs Serpentine restaurant

Serpentine Shop

Lido Bar and Café

Princess Diana Memorial Fountain

Serpentine Bar & Kitchen

Boathouse

BlueBird Boat Rental

Chucs Serpentine restaurant

Serpentine Shop

Lido Bar and Café

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