

The Theodor Heuss Prize for the year 2014
is awarded to the environmental artist

Christo

for both his art – which is political in content and which
disrupts fixed patterns of thought and vision by means of
subtle provocations in relation to monumental objects –
and for the long-standing commitment to the public
sphere that is connected with his art.

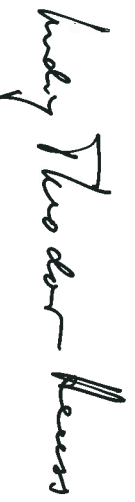
As Christo Vladimirov Javacheff, Christo was born into a
family of industrialists in Gabrovo, Bulgaria, on 13 June
1935. After studying art at the National Academy of Art
Sofia in the 1950s, he emigrated to Paris. In the French
capital, he met Jeanne-Claude. They married after the
birth of their son Cyril and then moved to New York in
1964. Based there, they devoted themselves to a great
number of large-scale wrapping projects, including the
surrounded islands in Florida, the valley curtain in Colo-
rado and the gigantic umbrellas in Japan and California,
along with many other projects. Christo is currently wor-
king on completing the last artworks that he began toge-
ther with his wife, who died in 2009.

For Christo, it is not only the realisation of his ideas that
is important. Instead, he and his wife Jeanne-Claude have
repeatedly emphasised how important the societal debate
and deliberation involved in the preliminary stages of
every project are. The democratic processes of consensus
building and forming public opinion were of immense
importance for the works of the artist couple.

The ‘Wrapped Reichstag’ project played a prominent role
in German democracy: it drew attention to the tumultuous
history of the Reichstag building as a symbol of German
parliamentarianism and freed it of its ambivalence. In this
way the wrapping of the Reichstag became a symbol for a
democratic awakening and new beginning.

The 2014 Theodor Heuss Prize goes to an artist and
visionary who makes art an integral element in the active
support of democracy by opening his art projects to a
public discourse and by stimulating discussion.

Stuttgart, 12. April 2014



Prof. Dr. Ludwig Theodor Heuss
Chairman of the Executive Board



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