

CHRISTO VALLEY CURTAIN 1970-72.

On August 10, 1972, in Rifle, Colorado, at 11 am, a group of 35 construction workers and 64 temporary helpers, art schools, college students, and itinerant art workers tied down the last of 27 ropes that secured the 200,000 square foot of woven nylon fabric orange Curtain to its moorings at Rifle Gap, 7 miles north of Rifle, on Highway 325.

Valley Curtain was designed by Unipolycon of Lynn, Mass., and the Ken R. White Company of Denver Colorado. It was built by A and H Builders Inc. of Boulder, Colo., under the site Supervision of Henry B. Leininger.

By suspending the Curtain at a width of 1,313 feet and a height curving from 365 feet at each end to 182 feet at the center, the Curtain remained clear of the slopes and the Valley bottom.

A 10 foot skirt attached to the Curtain visually completed the area between the thimbles and the ground.

An outer cocoon was put around the fully fitted Curtain for protection in transit and at the time of its raising into position and securing to the 11 cable clamp connections at the 4 main upper cables.

An inner cocoon, integral to the Curtain, provided added insurance.

The bottom of the Curtain was laced to a 3 inch diameter dacron rope from which the control and tie-down lines ran to the 27 anchors.

Valley Curtain project took 28 months to complete.

On August 11, 28 hours after completion, of the Valley Curtain, a gale estimated in excess of 60 mph. made it necessary to start the removal.

The project was financed by Christo.