



Claes Oldenburg

Born:

Stockholm, Sweden, 1929

Claes Oldenburg settled in Chicago in 1936. Ten years later he entered Yale University and studied English literature and art. He returned to Chicago in 1950. Working as a reporter, he earned his B.A. at night at the Art Institute. Oldenburg moved to New York in 1956 and spent considerable time sketching on the Lower East Side. With Allan Kapros and others, he was a seminal figure in the Happenings staged in lower Manhattan beginning in 1959.

Oldenburg began his extensive *Notes* in 1952, exploring meaning as well as form in the animate and inanimate debris around him. Objects made of cardboard, papier-mâché, and scrap wood in turn became environments – *The Street* (1960), *The Store* (1961). In 1962 the artist exhibited the first of his soft sculptures, which became central to the pop art movement. In 1965 he produced his first proposals for monumental sculptures: cigarette butts, lipsticks, clothespins, and Good Humor bars – objects that have remained a focus of his work.

The first of Oldenburg's sculpture editions were published in 1965. He has worked on print and sculpture editions with several collaborators in addition to Gemini G.E.L.. Among them are Tanglewood Press, Multiples, Inc., Petersburg Press, Crown Point Press, Aeropress, Landfall Press, and Jeff Sanders. Among books Oldenburg has written are *Store Days* (1967), *Proposals for Monuments and Buildings* (1969), and *Raw Notes* (1973).

Oldenburg's large-scale commissions include pieces in Oberlin, Ohio (1970); Chicago (1977); Philadelphia (1976); and Salinas, California (1982). One-man exhibitions of his work were organized by the Moderna Museet, Stockholm (1966); the Tate Gallery, London (1970); the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (1975); the Institute of Contemporary Art, Chicago (1977); and the Museum Ludwig, Cologne (1979-80). Beginning in 1976, Oldenburg worked in close partnership with his wife, Coosje van Bruggen. Together they executed over forty Large-Scale Projects, which have been inserted into various urban surroundings in Europe, Asia, and the United States. They divided their time between studios in New York City and Beaumont-sur-Dême, France. Coosje van Bruggen died in their Los Angeles home on January 10, 2009.

Selected Exhibitions:

1960 Reuben Gallery, New York, NY, *The Street*.

1961 107 East 2nd Street, New York, NY, *The Store*.

1962 Green Gallery, New York, NY

1964 Sidney Janis Gallery, New York, NY

Galerie Ileana Sonnabend, Paris, France

XXXII Esposizione Internazionale d'Arte (Venice Biennale): "Four Younger Artists."

1966 Sidney Janis Gallery, New York, NY

Robert Fraser Gallery, London, United Kingdom

Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden

1967 Sidney Janis Gallery, New York, NY

Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago Projects for Monuments, Chicago, IL

1969 Richard Feigen Gallery, Chicago, IL



GEMINI G.E.L. AT JONI MOISANT WEYL

- 1969 Chicago Show; The Museum of Modern Art, New York (traveled to Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Städtische Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf; The Tate Gallery, London)
- 1971 Pasadena Art Museum, Pasadena, California, Object Into Monument (traveled to University Art Museum, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA; Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City, MO; Des Moines Art Center, IA; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA; Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL)
- 1974 Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, NY
- 1975 Kunsthalle Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany, Zeichnungen von Claes Oldenburg (traveled to Kunstmuseum Basel; Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich; Nationalgalerie Berlin Staatliche Museen Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin, Germany; Kaiser Wilhelm Museum, Krefeld, Germany; Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts, Vienna, Austria; Kunstverein, Hamburg, Germany; Städtische Galerie im Städelschen Kunstinstitut, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Gestner-Gesellschaft, Hannover, Germany; Louisiana Museum, Humlebaek, Denmark)
- Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Oldenburg: Six Themes (traveled to The Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO; The Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA; Institute of Contemporary Art, Hayden Gallery, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, MA; The Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto)
- 1976 Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, NY
- 1977 Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Drawings, Watercolors and Graphics (traveled to Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Moderna Museet, Stockholm)
- 1977 Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, The Mouse Museum / The Ray Gun Wing: Two Collections/ Two Buildings by Claes Oldenburg (traveled to Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, Arizona; St. Louis Art Museum, Missouri; Museum of Fine Arts, Dallas; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Rijksmuseum Kröller-Müller, Otterlo, The Netherlands; Museum Ludwig, Cologne)
- 1980 Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, Large-Scale Projects 1977-1980, with Coosje van Bruggen.
- 1986 Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, Props, Costumes and Designs from the Performance Il Corso del Coltello by Claes Oldenburg, Coosje van Bruggen, Frank O. Gehry
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, The Knife Ship.
- 1987 Northern Centre for Contemporary Art, Sunderland, England, A Bottle of Notes and Some Voyages, with Coosje van Bruggen (traveled to The Henry Moore Centre for the Study of Sculpture, Leeds City Art Gallery, Leeds, England; Serpentine Gallery, London; Glynn Vivian Art Gallery and Museum, Swansea, England; Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels; Wilhelm-Lehmbruck Museum, Duisburg, West Germany; IVAM Centre Julio González, Valencia, Spain; Tampereen Nykytaiteen Museo, Tampere, Finland)
- Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, Le couteau navire décors, costumes, dessins: Il Corso del Coltello, de Claes Oldenburg, Coosje van Bruggen et Frank O. Gehry
Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, Drawings 1959-1988 (traveled to Musée d'Art Contemporain, Nîmes, France; IVAM Centro Julio González, Valencia, Spain)
- 1990 Galleria Christian Stein, Milan, The European Desk Top, with Coosje van Bruggen.
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, From The Studio (traveled to Musée Cantini, Marseilles, France)
Brooke Alexander Editions, New York, NY, Multiples in Retrospect, 1964-1990
- 1990 Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, NY, with Coosje van Bruggen
- 1992 Pace Gallery, New York; BP Building, Cleveland, Ohio, Larger than Life, with Coosje van Bruggen
Portikus, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, Multiples 1964-1990
PaceWildenstein, New York, NY, Large-Scale Projects, with Coosje van Bruggen



GEMINI G.E.L. AT JONI MOISANT WEYL

- 1995 National Gallery, Washington, D.C.
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA
- 1995 Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, Claes Oldenburg: An Anthology (traveled to Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn, Germany; Hayward Gallery, London, 1996)
- 1997 XLVII Esposizione Internazionale d'Arte (Venice Biennale): "Future, Present, Past," Valentine Perfume, with Coosje van Bruggen
Madison, WI, Claes Oldenburg: Printed Stuff (traveled to Columbus Museum of Art, OH; Detroit Museum of Art, MI, 1998)
- 1999 Museo Correr, Venice, Claes Oldenburg/Coosje van Bruggen, May 22–October 3, 1999
California Palace of the Legion of Honor, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Claes Oldenburg: Prints and Multiples, June 5–September 19, 1999
- 2000 590 Madison Avenue, New York, NY, Typewriter Eraser, Scale X, The Center for Public Sculpture, June 4, 2001–December 12, 2002
- 2002 Paula Cooper Gallery, New York, Claes Oldenburg: Drawings 1959-63, February 14–March 16, 2002
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Roof Garden, New York, NY
Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen on the Roof, May 1, 2002–November 17, 2002
- 2003–2004 The Chinati Foundation, Marfa, TX, Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen: Notebook Pages: A Dialogue, October 2003–July 2004
- 2006 Honor Fraser, Venice, CA, Claes Oldenburg: Multiples, November–December 2006