



Claes Oldenburg (Stockholm 1929 -)

Study for a Soft Sculpture in the Form of a Drainpipe, 1967

Krijt en aquarel op papier geplakt op board

762 bij 565 mm

Gesigneerd met de initialen van de kunstenaar en gedateerd 67 rechtsonder

Exhibitions

New York, Sidney Janis Gallery, *An Exhibition of New Works by Claes Oldenburg*, April - May 1967

New York, The Museum of Modern Art, *Claes Oldenburg*, September - November 1969

Pasadena Art Museum, *Claes Oldenburg: Object into Monument*, December 1971 - February 1972

Artist description:

Claes Oldenburg was born in Stockholm, Sweden, the son of a Swedish diplomat. As a child he and his family moved to United States in 1936, first to New York then, later, to Chicago where he graduated from the Latin School of Chicago. He studied at Yale University from 1946 to 1950, then returned to Chicago where he studied under the direction of Paul Wiegardt at the Art Institute of Chicago until 1954.

While further developing his craft, he worked as a reporter at the City News Bureau of Chicago. He also opened his own studio and, in 1953, became a naturalized citizen of the United States. His first recorded sales of artworks were at the 57th Street Art Fair in Chicago. He moved back to New York City in 1956. There he met a number of artists, including Jim Dine, Red Grooms, and Allan Kaprow, whose Happenings incorporated theatrical aspects and provided an alternative to the abstract expressionism that had come to dominate much of the art scene.

The most memorable aspects of Oldenburg's works are perhaps, the colossal sculptures that he has

made. Sculptures, though quite large, often have interactive capabilities. One such interactive early sculpture was a soft sculpture of a tube of lipstick which would deflate unless a participant re-pumped air into it. In 1974, this sculpture, Lipstick (Ascending) on Caterpillar Tracks, was redesigned in a sturdier aluminum form, the giant lipstick being placed vertically atop tank treads. Originally installed in Beinecke Plaza at Yale, it now resides in the Morse College courtyard.

He has collaborated with Dutch/American pop sculptor Coosje van Bruggen since 1976. They were married in 1977.

In 1988, he and van Bruggen collaborated to create the iconic Spoonbridge and Cherry sculpture for the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota that remains a staple of the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden as well as a classic image of the city.

In 2000, he was awarded the National Medal of Arts.