

### **Visual Art Virtual Learning**

Art I - Pop Art

May 21, 2020





### **Objective/Learning Target: We will be learning more about Claes Oldenburg.**



### **BIOGRAPHY**

Claes Oldenburg was born in 1929, in Stockholm. His father was a diplomat, and the family lived in the United States and Norway before settling in Chicago in 1936. Oldenburg studied literature and art history at Yale University, New Haven, from 1946 to 1950.



### **BIOGRAPHY**

He subsequently studied art under Paul Wieghardt at the Art Institute of Chicago from 1950 to 1954. During the first two years of art school, he also worked as an apprentice reporter at the City News Bureau of Chicago. He afterward opened a studio, where he made magazine illustrations and easel paintings. Oldenburg became an American citizen in December 1953



### POP ART

Claes Oldenburg is a Swedish-born American sculptor known for his innovative and humorous reconstructions of everyday objects in both large-scale public installations and soft materials. Oldenburg is associated with the Pop Art movement. "Because my work is naturally non-meaningful, the meaning found in it will remain doubtful and inconsistent—which is the way it should be," he explained of his work. "All that I care about is that, like any startling piece of nature, it should be capable of stimulating meaning.



**DOES THIS LOOK FAMILIAR?** 

The husband and wife team of Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggenwere commissioned in 1992 to design a sculpture for The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. They responded to the formality of the Museum's 1933 neoclassical building and the green expanse of its lawn by imagining the Museum as a badminton net and the lawn as a playing field.



#### **DOES THIS LOOK FAMILIAR?**

The pair designed four birdies or shuttlecocks that were placed as though they had just landed on opposite sides of the net. Each shuttlecock weighs 5,500 pounds, stands nearly 18 feet tall and has a diameter of some 16 feet.



In addition to his huge sculptures, Oldenburg is known for his soft sculptures, which are much smaller than his exterior sculptures but are still large.







## WATCH THIS IIDEO TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CLAES OLDENBURG



### WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT CLAES OLDENBURG'S SCULPTURES?

### DO YOU LIKE THEM? WHY? WHY NOT?

IF YOU COULD MAKE SOMETHING LARGE SCALE WHAT WOULD IT BE?

### THIS WEEK WILL TAKE A LOOK AT DIFFERENT POP ARTISTS!

# PLEASE EMAIL ME IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

SHANNON\_BOWN@ISDSCHOOLS.ORG