

Claes Oldenburg & Coosje van Bruggen

Things Around the House

NOVEMBER 7 – DECEMBER 12, 2015
OPENING RECEPTION, NOVEMBER 12,
6:00 – 8:00PM
534 W 21ST STREET

NEW YORK—*Things Around the House*, an exhibition of works by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, will be on view at Paula Cooper Gallery from November 7 through December 12. The exhibition includes nearly 100 works from the house and studio where Oldenburg has lived since 1971 and which he shared with his wife and partner Coosje van Bruggen from 1976 until her passing in 2009. By offering an intimate look at works that stayed on with the artists, the exhibition presents a unique view into a creative practice whose end Oldenburg has described as “developing a language of both exterior and interior life, in one expression.”

Embracing what he calls “the poetry of everywhere,” Claes Oldenburg reimagines commonplace objects in distorted scale, materiality and hue. His exaggerated forms breathe vitality and tactile lyricism into ubiquitous or overlooked articles. The works on view in *Things Around the House* render fantastic or unfamiliar subjects that are usually prosaic and mundane.

The exhibition also illuminates the artist's cumulative approach to art making. His engagement with objects through sketches, writings, models and drawings is a constant process over decade-long periods of coexistence. The artist asserts: “Process is what keeps a thing alive, one thing leads to another. One has to do more to it – intensify color, play with material and scale, subject the form to gravity, make it collide with another object, turn it upside down or bury it halfway into the ground - so that it opens up multiple associations.”

Claes Oldenburg was born in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1929. He attended Yale University (1946-1950) as well as The Art Institute of Chicago before moving to New York City in 1956. The artist had his first one-person exhibition at the Judson Gallery, New York, in 1959 followed by shows at the Moderna

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