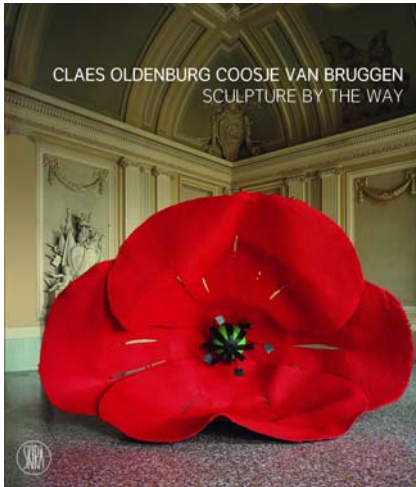


Claes Oldenburg Coosje van Bruggen: Sculpture by the Way / Co-edited by Ida Gianelli and Marcella Beccaria.—Milan, Italy: Skira, dist. by Rizzoli International Publications, March, 2007.—368 p.: ill.—ISBN 8-7624-870-6: \$85.00.



Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen are partners in all facets of their lives. Until the late 1970s Claes Oldenburg, a well-known and often-exhibited founder of American Pop Art, was a solo artist. His collaborations with van Bruggen started in 1976, one year before they married. By the 1980s, their co-signed works acknowledged their artistic partnership. This volume covers the past twenty years of their collaborative art, 1985-2006. It accompanies an exhibition of the same title held at the Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art, Rivoli-Turin, from October 25, 2006 through February 25, 2007.

Filled with full-page, saturated color images of the quality one expects from Skira publications, this luxurious catalog documents the couple's sculptural and performance pieces starting with *Il Corso del Cotello* (*The Course of the Knife*) in 1985 and includes large-scale public works and smaller museum pieces. Also included are numerous preparatory sketches, studies and reproductions of notebook pages, along with photographs of models and smaller scale versions of some of the pieces.

To the curators' credit, they let the artists speak for themselves throughout. The catalog begins with an interview with Oldenburg and van Bruggen that is an artistic dialogue, not just a simple Q + A. Photographs of their large-scale projects are accompanied by introductory paragraphs that the artists wrote. In these, their sense of humor shines through, as does their sensitivity to the environment in which the work will be placed; reading these descriptions one understands, that while often quite whimsical, these works comment seriously on their sites and times.

The last section of the book, entitled "Selected Exhibitions, 1985-2005," reprints articles from a variety of sources. It also includes excerpts from van Bruggen's journals. The book concludes with a list of works in the exhibition, a selected bibliography, and a brief biography of each artist.

This title is highly worthwhile and recommended for any collection with strengths in modern and contemporary art.

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