

Artwork Focus

Claes Oldenburg

Clothespin, 1974

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Have you ever seen a clothespin like this? What are clothespins used for?

A clothespin is a fastener that is used to hang up clothes for drying, usually on a clothesline.

Artist Claes Oldenburg has based many of his sculptures on everyday objects. He often makes his sculptures MUCH larger than the actual object.

How big are the clothespins you have seen?

This clothespin made from bronze is almost four feet tall!



What do you think an enormous clothespin would hold? Draw a picture of your idea.

By changing the size or material of these familiar forms, Oldenburg invites us to pay attention to them and think of them in a new way. When you look at this sculpture of a clothespin, you might notice its curves or symmetry rather than thinking of what you can do with it.

Find a useful item in your home that you also think is beautiful. Create a sketch for a monument you might build to honor that object.

Claes Oldenburg, *Clothespin*, 1974. Bronze, 47 3/4 x 16 1/4 x 7 in. (121.3 x 41.3 x 17.8 cm.) Raymond and Patsy Nasher Collection, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas.

Nasher Sculpture Center