

WSMS SOFT SCULPTURES

Art is an incredible medium for children to explore and express themselves through various media. In the spring of 2024, under the leadership of art teacher Margot Mack, each classroom made a soft sculpture inspired by the work of artists Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen. Each classroom decided what object to create using newsprint, masking tape, and paint. Children worked together over several weeks to create a large-scale sculpture.

One of the fascinating aspects of Claes Oldenburg's work is his ability to transform everyday objects into enormous sculptures. This concept of scale, or the change in size, was a key focus of our project.

These incredible soft sculptures were displayed on the fence and in the library at 309 for the entire community to enjoy.

Claes Oldenburg, January 28, 1929–July 18, 2022, was a Swedish-born American sculptor, best known for his public art installations, typically featuring large replicas of everyday objects. Another theme in his work is soft sculpture versions of everyday objects. Many of his works were made in collaboration with his wife, Coosje van Bruggen; they were married for 32 years. Claes lived and worked in New York City, and is considered a part of the pop art movement, which created art inspired by popular culture.

Coosje van Bruggen, June 6, 1942–January 10, 2009, was a Dutch-born American sculptor, art historian, and critic. She collaborated extensively with her husband, Claes Oldenburg.



