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– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

**Spring Ting Dinner and Auction
To honor artist Claes Oldenburg
At the American Swedish Historical Museum
Saturday, April 13th, 2013, 6pm**



Claes Oldenburg in his studio, New York, 2011. Photo credit: Wesley Mann

The American Swedish Historical Museum is proud to announce that this year's annual Spring Ting dinner and auction will honor internationally acclaimed Swedish-American sculptor Claes Oldenburg. We are thrilled to be able to present Mr. Oldenburg with our Outstanding Achievement Award, in recognition for his contributions to the modern and contemporary art world, and in particular for his work on large scale civic sculptures, of which the city of Philadelphia is lucky to have several.

Born in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1929, Claes Oldenburg grew up in Chicago and graduated from Yale University in 1950. After studying at the Art Institute of Chicago, he settled permanently in New York City in 1956.

Oldenburg established himself in the early 1960s with a series of installations and performances, among them *The Street* (1960), *The Store* (1961), and *Ray Gun Theater* (1962).

At the end of the decade, Oldenburg began to fabricate works on a large scale, beginning with *Lipstick (Ascending) on Caterpillar Tracks* (1969), which was followed by other works such as *Geometric Mouse* (1969) and *Giant Ice Bag* (1970). His first architecturally scaled sculpture, the 45-foot-high *Clothespin*, was installed in downtown Philadelphia in 1976. Soon thereafter, he began working with Coosje van Bruggen (b.



Claes Oldenburg, *Clothespin*, 1976. Cor-Ten steel, steel, aluminum, cast resin; painted with polyurethane enamel, 45 ft. x 12 ft. 3 in. x 4 ft. 6 in. (13.7 x 3.7 x 1.4 m) Collection Centre Square Plaza, Fifteenth and Market streets, Philadelphia. Photo credit: Attilio Maranzano. Photo courtesy the Oldenburg van Bruggen Studio, Copyright 1976 Claes Oldenburg.

1942; d. 2009), whom he married in 1977. Together they realized 44 site-specific sculptures in architectural scale for cities in the United States, Europe, Japan and Korea, including *Split Button* (1981) in front of the library at the University of Pennsylvania. Oldenburg's most recent outdoor work is the 51-foot high Paint Torch, installed at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in August 2011.

To attend our Spring Ting event, please call the museum at (215) 389-1776 or purchase tickets online at www.americanswedish.org/calendar.htm. Ticket prices are \$95 for ASHM members, \$125 for Individuals, \$150 for Friends (1 ticket), \$300 for Patrons (2 tickets) and \$550 for sponsors (4 tickets). **Seating is limited, please reserve your tickets by April 1, 2013.** For more information, please call the museum or email info@americanswedish.org.

The American Swedish Historical Museum is located in scenic FDR Park at 1900 Pattison Avenue in South Philadelphia near the Sports Complex. Plenty of free parking is available. For those taking public transportation, the Broad Street Subway's AT&T/Pattison Avenue stop is within walking distance or SEPTA's Route 17 (Naval Base) can bring you right to the Museum.

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