



*Claes Oldenburg - Clip 3*

## **“Starting all over again with a new aesthetic” Minimalism in L. A.**

I took a bungalow in Venice, California, and sort of started all over again. The motive was to make a performance, which I did in the fall of '63, called *Autobodies*, which was about automobiles, and to do an exhibition at the Douane (?) gallery, which was located in Westwood then, it was also in the Fall, and thirdly to do the *Bedroom Ensemble* which had been scheduled by Sidney Janis for the “Environments” show that took place in January '64. It was actually a very busy time, but it was wonderful to start all over again with a new aesthetic. If you know Los Angeles, you know that its really about being indoors, in a house. They have great outdoors there, but its more about being inside a house there, and it's a city of many bungalows. So people have an interior sense – it's also that bungalows are remarkably plain inside. There's very little decoration, compared to other parts of the country – at least there was at that time, and in bungalows that I knew in Venice. So there was a kind of a minimalist interior in all these places, and even the exteriors of Los Angeles, because they are so vast and simple, have a minimalist look to them.

The thing that is not always understood is that what was called Pop Art, or the group of people who were working in that area, were also very

good friends with Minimalist artists who were working at the same time. If you were in a gallery like the Green Gallery, which was my first uptown gallery, you were showing together with Bob Morris, and Donald Judd, and Sol Lewitt, so that they were concurrent and not necessarily competitive. It was later on that the Conceptualists pushed them all aside and refused to play with them. But in those days, the Minimalists and the Pop artists got along very well, and the *Bedroom Ensemble* could be seen as a kind of wedding of Minimalism and Pop. It has certainly the ingredients of both. It is a spatial composition such as the Minimalists like to do.

