



Claes Oldenburg - Clip 6

“You see a moment in time and its frozen” Bedroom Ensemble

You see a moment in time, and its frozen. I have always thought of photography as anti-organic, in a way of stopping life. It's true that you observe life in a photograph, but it is stopped. This was like a three dimensional photograph, its true. It's also a convention, of if you look in a store window, or something, you see a bedroom display. They will show the bedroom as if it is being used – suggested as being used. But it is the presence also of the person suggested that there were human beings, or there are human beings who used this. But the fact is that the minute that the human being steps into the bedroom – its gone. I have never been able to photograph anyone in the bedroom because it just disappears. It's the suggestion of human presence that works. But if you put an actual human being in there, the whole thing is gone. And that's why its chained away – why a chain hangs in front of it to keep you on the other side, because this is the kind of reality that if you intrude it vanishes. I also felt that if you stood there, the chain is hung in such a way that it hits you right at a point below the knees. Which is, you feel something, you know, and it suggests that there is something there.

It's that touch, you know, which is reminding you that there is life even though you are staring

at the absence of life. It's a kind of intermixture of life and non-life, and of course you can't get into the bed, not that you even would want to. And it's really very architectural.

