

Non-Edible Food

A Pop Art Challenge for 8th Graders

2018

Lowell School, Wash DC



“I am for an art that grows up not knowing it is art at all...”

Claes Oldenburg

As part of a larger review of modern art movements that capped the 8th graders final year in art, Pop Art was re-introduced. In 7th grade the work of Wayne Thiebaud inspired illustrations of desserts. This year, students were challenged to create their most convincing sculptural depictions of favorite foods.

Of course the work of Claes Oldenburg was included in the introduction to this project. His often whimsical portrayals of foods inspired the students to think creatively as they rendered drafts on paper and then constructed their sculptures. Materials available were paper, cardboard, foam-board, foam insulation, aluminum foil, and paint. With only those things at their disposal, the 8th graders displayed uncanny wit and resourcefulness in crafting their responses to the challenge. When the completed works were put on display, it seemed necessary to warn the viewers that this food was not edible!