

# NEWS

Press Contact:  
 Rachel Joyce  
 612.375.7635  
[rachel.joyce@walkerart.org](mailto:rachel.joyce@walkerart.org)

Online Press Room:  
[walkerart.org/press-releases](http://walkerart.org/press-releases)

## CHERRY RETURNS TO THE MINNEAPOLIS SCULPTURE GARDEN



Photo by Greg Beckel, courtesy Walker Art Center, Minneapolis.

**MINNEAPOLIS, FEBRUARY 7, 2021** —Minneapolis will soon be reunited with its *Cherry*! On February 18 around 11 AM, the freshly restored and re-painted *Cherry* of [Spoonbridge and Cherry](#) will return to the [Minneapolis Sculpture Garden](#). Since mid-November, the 1200 pound aluminum ball has been in New York under the care of Fine Art Finishes while the *Spoonbridge* base has remained without its iconic fruit. In order to keep the red crisp and glossy through all seasons, the *Cherry* requires a fresh coat of paint about every ten years.

Coosje van Bruggen and Claes Oldenburg's *Spoonbridge and Cherry* has been on view in the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden since it's opening in 1988. The *Cherry* was last separated from the Spoon for restoration and re-painting in 2009.



Photo courtesy Fine Art Finishes.

### ABOUT THE SPOONBRIDGE AND CHERRY

A giant ice cream cone, a huge electric plug, an enormous bag of French fries—with his surprising representations of everyday things, Claes Oldenburg became a key voice in Pop Art, a 1960s movement that saw many artists turning to advertising and consumer products for subject matter. By the early 1980s, he had begun to make monumental outdoor works with Coosje van Bruggen, his wife and artistic partner. *Spoonbridge and Cherry* is one of their most celebrated collaborations. It was the first work commissioned for the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, which opened in 1988.

The fountain-sculpture was inspired by a novelty item Oldenburg had collected in 1962, featuring a spoon resting on an “island” of plastic chocolate. From this, the artists envisioned a gigantic utensil as a fanciful bridge over a pond. In considering Minnesota as a site, they compared the spoon's raised bowl to the prow of a Viking ship or a duck bobbing in a lake. Van Bruggen added the cherry, a personal symbol recalling happy moments in a childhood clouded by World War II. At more than 50 feet long, *Spoonbridge and Cherry* has delighted visitors ever since and is now a familiar and iconic symbol for the Twin Cities.



Photo by Cameron Wittig, courtesy Walker Art Center, Minneapolis.

Collection Walker Art Center

Gift of Frederick R. Weisman in honor of his parents, William and Mary Weisman, 1988

### ABOUT THE MINNEAPOLIS SCULPTURE GARDEN

Since opening in 1988, the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden has become one of the Twin Cities' most popular and acclaimed attractions. One of the largest urban sculpture parks in the United States, it includes four 100-foot-square quadrants containing works by leading modern and contemporary artists. Each of these "roofless rooms" are bordered by low granite walls and evergreen hedges that lead to a clearing surrounded by evergreens, which features the city's adopted icon, *Spoonbridge and Cherry*, a sculpture specifically created for the space by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen. Anchoring the west side of the Garden is the Cowles Conservatory, which houses seasonal plantings and the sculpture *Standing Glass Fish*, by architect Frank Gehry. Another iconic work is the *Irene Hixon Whitney Bridge*, a 375-foot steel-and-wood footbridge designed by artist Siah Armajani, which spans 16 lanes of traffic and connects the Garden to Loring Park. The 1992 expansion of the Garden on its northern end was designed by landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh.

### ABOUT THE WALKER ART CENTER

Known for presenting today's most compelling artists from close to home and around the world, the Walker Art Center features a broad array of contemporary visual arts, music, dance, theater, and moving image works. Ranging from concerts and films to exhibitions and workshops, Walker programs bring us together to examine the questions that shape and inspire us as individuals, cultures, and communities. The adjacent Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, one of the first urban sculpture parks of its kind in the United States, holds at its center the beloved Twin Cities landmark *Spoonbridge and Cherry* by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen as well as some 60 sculptures on the 19-acre Walker campus. Visit [walkerart.org](http://walkerart.org) for more information on upcoming events and programs.

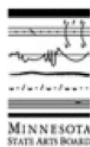
---

## Acknowledgements

Premier Partner



Technology Partner



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



Thank you, Walker members, for your generous support.