

URSULA VON RYDINGSVARD

LUBA

October 27 - December 17, 2022

Opening Thursday, October 27, 2022, 6:00pm - 8:00pm



Ursula von Rydingsvard,
OBUDOWAĆ, 2020-21.

Galerie Lelong & Co., New York is pleased to announce a solo exhibition by Ursula von Rydingsvard, presenting new sculptures and drawings by the artist. Celebrated for her monumental sculptures in outdoor and indoor spaces, von Rydingsvard rigorously innovates her visual language in movement and intensity, her practice—that now numbers more than five decades—is suffused with a rich synthesis of form and emotion. The gallery's exhibition follows a tour de force in Poland; a major retrospective to three museums that marked von Rydingsvard's homecoming. The artist was born to a Polish-Ukrainian family which was deported for forced labor in Germany during World War II and emigrated to the U.S. after.

At the crux of von Rydingsvard's desire for complexity is a profoundly vulnerable search and remembrance of places, people, and events. Grounded by her intuition, the artist has increased the depth and recurrence of thin, intricate crevices within the work's interior, a technical accomplishment that rewards careful looking—an impression of a large mass accrues texture upon discovering gaps, punctures, and orifices smaller than a human hand. "The transitions claim a kind of movement, and I have the privilege of detouring these movements, making some larger than others. The movements for which I have an infinite amount of admiration are those on the surface of the ocean; for all of the world's ocean surface, no one wave is like any other," von Rydingsvard has shared.

In addition to the works' physicality, von Rydingsvard places the pieces in subtle tension with the surfaces they encounter. The largest wall-based work, *OBUDOWAĆ* (2020-21) evokes the language of painting through the artist's creation of negative space achieved by leaving four-by-four cedar beams—the material she has been working with for over 50 years—untouched. Von Rydingsvard gives Polish titles to a majority of her sculptures, and *OBUDOWAĆ* ["rebuild"] is the first large sculpture produced after von Rydingsvard's brief absence from the studio due to the pandemic.

A new human-scale bronze work will be on view for the first time. Cast in bronze from a wood model, *Bowl with Fingers* evokes a form familiar to the artist's oeuvre while the bronze compels von Rydingsvard to consider the surface as a painting with each brush of the patina.

Von Rydingsvard's bold assertion in commandeering any available space is similarly expressed in her drawings which has evolved to become a large part of her practice over the past two years. As von Rydingsvard never drafts her sculptures on paper before carving them on wood, these rarely exhibited works rendered in charcoal and graphite on paper stand alone as a refulgent imprint of the artist's expanding curiosity; a raw wonderment that recalls the artist's roots in Post-Minimalism.

About the Artist

Over a remarkable five-decade-long career, Ursula von Rydingsvard has become one of the most influential sculptors working today. She is best known for creating large-scale, often monumental sculpture from cedar beams, which she painstakingly cuts, assembles, and laminates before finally rubbing a graphite patina into the work's textured, faceted surfaces. Her signature abstract shapes refer to things in the real world—vessels, bowls, tools, and other objects—each revealing the mark of the human hand while also summoning natural forms and forces. In recent years, von Rydingsvard has explored other mediums in depth, such as bronze, paper, and resin, continuing to expand upon her unique artistic vocabulary. The artist's large-scale bronze works can be found in many public spaces.

Von Rydingsvard's work is represented in the permanent collections of 40 museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Missouri; Storm King Art Center, New York; Art Institute of Chicago and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Permanent commissioned sculptures by von Rydingsvard are on view in multiple public locations including the San Francisco International Airport, California; Stanford University, Palo Alto, California; Princeton University, New Jersey; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge; Bloomberg Corporation, New York; and Barclays Center, New York; among others. Recent solo museum exhibitions include *Ursula von Rydingsvard: Nothing but Art*, a touring retrospective in Poland that was held at the Centre of Polish Sculpture, Orońsko; Royal Łazienki Museum, Warsaw, and National Museum in Krakow; *Ursula von Rydingsvard: The Contour of Feeling* at the Fabric Workshop and Museum, Pennsylvania and Denver Botanic Gardens, Colorado; *Now, She*, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pennsylvania; Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, UK and a solo presentation at the 56th Venice Biennale, Italy. A documentary feature about the artist's practice *Ursula von Rydingsvard: Into Her Own* was released in 2019.

Von Rydingsvard was born 1942 in Deensen, Germany. She has lived and worked in New York City for 47 years.

HIGHLIGHTS



Ursula von Rydingsvard

OBUDOWAĆ, 2020-21

Cedar

138 x 148 x 28 in (350.5 x 375.9 x 71.1 cm)

(GL15327)



Ursula von Rydingsvard

ZGINEŁA, 2017-2019

Cedar

102 1/2 x 72 1/2 x 93 in (260.4 x 184.2 x 236.2 cm)

(GL14474)



Ursula von Rydingsvard

NABOŻNY, 2019

Cedar and graphite

47 x 69 1/2 x 25 1/2 in (119.4 x 176.5 x 64.8 cm)

(GL15238)



Ursula von Rydingsvard

C/SZA, 2020-21

Cedar

149 x 79 x 82 in (378.5 x 200.7 x 208.3 cm)
(GL13391)



Ursula von Rydingsvard

Untitled, 2021

Signed verso

Charcoal on paper

30 1/8 x 44 1/8 in (76.5 x 112.1 cm)
(GL15457)



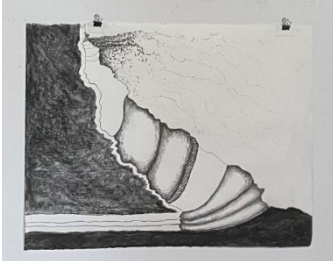
Ursula von Rydingsvard

Untitled, 2022

Signed and dated verso

Charcoal and graphite on paper

22 1/2 x 30 1/8 in (57.1 x 76.5 cm)
(GL15715)



Ursula von Rydingsvard

Untitled, 2022

Signed and dated verso

Charcoal and graphite on paper

22 1/4 x 30 1/8 in (56.5 x 76.5 cm)
(GL15716)