



URSULA VON RYDINGSVARD

Media release



9 May–22 November 2015

Giardino della Marinaressa

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) presents a major open-air exhibition of six sculptures by Ursula von Rydingsvard in the Giardino della Marinaressa, Venice as an official Collateral Event at the prestigious 56th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia.

Based in New York, this is von Rydingsvard's first exhibition in Italy and extends the life and reach of the artist's 2014 exhibition at YSP – her most extensive project to date – which included more than 40 works of drawing and sculpture in the Underground Gallery and open air. One of America's most inventive and individual artists, with work in collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art, von Rydingsvard has evolved a distinctive, highly personal sculptural language over the last four decades.

Curated by Peter Murray CBE, YSP's Founding and Executive Director, the exhibition at the Giardino della Marinaressa features monolithic structures meticulously assembled from 4"x4" cedar beams which serve as von Rydingsvard's blank canvas, a starting point from which she explores psychological and emotional themes. Her works do not grow from sketches or drawings; their development is instinctive and

Bronze Bowl with Lace,
2013–14. Bronze. Courtesy
the artist and Galerie Lelong
Photo Daniele Venturelli



responsive throughout the making process, imbuing the works with a vital and tangibly visceral quality. Although known for her work with cedar, von Rydingsvard has explored other materials in recent years including bronze and resin, which she casts from cedar, thereby embedding into different media the textural idiosyncrasies of the wood and leaving an echo of the original material. In addition to three cedar sculptures, works in the Venice exhibition include two monolithic bronzes, *Heart in Hand* (2014) and *Bronze Bowl with Lace* (2014), and *Elegantka II* (2013–14), an icy blue-grey resin work that appears to alter with changing weather conditions and light, shifting from opaque to almost translucent when sunlight shines through it.

Giardino della Marinaressa is a public park located on the Riva dei Sette Martiri, Castello, the main walking route between San Marco and the Giardini, home to the National Pavilions of la Biennale di Venezia, and between the Giardini and the Arsenale. This prime site, with stunning views across to San Giorgio Maggiore, has never before been used for the display of sculpture and the project has been sensitively developed in collaboration with the Comune di Venezia. In Venice the special light quality and location will draw out new nuances in von Rydingsvard's works, which have been sited to integrate with the distinctive canopy of pine and poplar trees, the surrounding architecture, and the sea beyond.

The exhibition has been developed in association with the Municipalità di Venezia Murano Burano, coordinated in Venice by Ambiente e Arte, and is supported by the American and European Friends of Ursula von Rydingsvard, Luciano Giubbilei and Galerie Lelong.

(L) *Elegantka II*, 2013–14.
Urethane resin
Courtesy the artist and
Galerie Lelong
(R) *Scratch*, 2013–14.
Cedar and graphite
Courtesy the artist and
Galerie Lelong

Photos Daniele Venturelli

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About the artist

Von Rydingsvard studied sculpture at Columbia University, graduating with an MFA in 1975. In the same year, she held her first solo show in New York. Her work has since been exhibited in numerous museums and galleries worldwide. Her sculpture is represented in the permanent collections of over 30 museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of Art, Walker Art Center, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Storm King Art Center, and Detroit Institute of Arts. She has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, two awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, three awards from the American section of the International Association of Art Critics, and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Von Rydingsvard was awarded the International Sculpture Center's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014. Permanent sculptures are in the collection of the Microsoft Corporation, Bloomberg Corporation, and Barclays Center among many others.

About Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) is the leading international centre for modern and contemporary sculpture. It is an independent charitable trust and registered museum (number 1067908) situated in the 500-acre, 18th-century Bretton Hall estate in West Yorkshire. Founded in 1977 by Executive Director Peter Murray, YSP was the first sculpture park in the UK, and is the largest of its kind in Europe, providing the only place in the world to see Barbara Hepworth's *The Family of Man* in its entirety alongside a significant collection of sculpture, including bronzes by Henry Moore, and site-specific works by Andy Goldsworthy, David Nash and James Turrell. YSP also mounts a world-class, year-round temporary exhibitions programme including some of the world's leading artists across five indoor galleries and the open air. Recent highlights have included exhibitions by Fiona Banner, Yinka Shonibare MBE, Joan Miró, Jaume Plensa, William Turnbull and Isamu Noguchi. YSP's core work is made possible by investment from Arts Council England, Wakefield Council, The Henry Moore Foundation, Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation and Sakurako and William Fisher through the Sakana Foundation. YSP was recently named Art Fund UK Museum of the Year 2014.

Selected current and forthcoming exhibitions at Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Henry Moore: Back to a Land (until 6 September 2015)

Making It: Sculpture in Britain 1977–1986 (until 21 June 2015)

Laura de Santillana and Alessandro Diaz de Santillana (2 May–6 September 2015)

Caro in Yorkshire (18 July–1 November 2015)

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