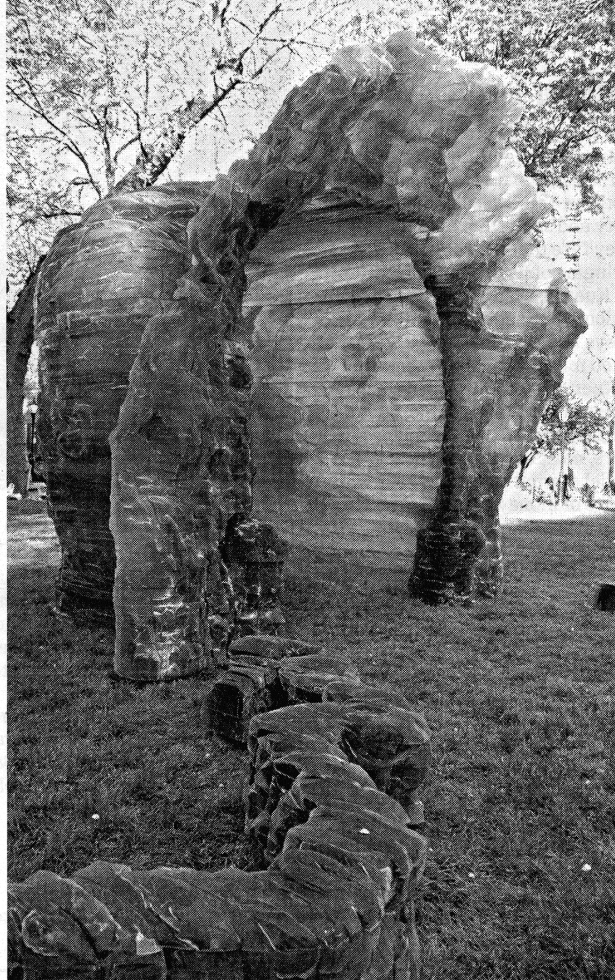


THE LISTINGS



Galerie Lelong, New York

URSULA VON RYDINGSVARD This 64-year-old German-born American sculptor wields circular handsaws, angle grinders, scoopers and sanders with the safety covers removed. Though this sounds dangerous, she is no stranger to fear; she spent the early years of her life in refugee camps after her parents were forced to flee Poland during World War II. These days she carves monumentally scaled wooden sculptures, several of which are on display at Galerie Lelong, showing concurrently with "Mad. Sq. Art: Ursula von Rydingsvard," an outdoor exhibition of four of her sculptures at Madison Square Park (above). She cuts and carves imposing semi-abstract forms from sweetly aromatic cedar wood beams stacked and glued together into towering piles. The designs are intuitive and improvised, though they will often recall treasured domestic items from her childhood: bowls, cups, a comb. Sometimes she finishes the sculptures with graphite powder to give them a burnt look, but more recently she has been leaving them rough, dimpled and bare, paying attention to the natural, lightly textured wood surfaces. Such are a pair of colossal wall-mounted plates at Lelong, measuring 10 feet high and several feet wide. The surface detailing is at once ragged and delicate, the artist letting her power tools run amok. ("Ursula von Rydingsvard," Galerie Lelong, 528 West 26th Street, Manhattan, 212-315 0470 or www.galerielelong.com, though Oct. 21. "Mad. Sq. Art: Ursula von Rydingsvard," Madison Square Park, between Madison and Fifth Avenues, from 23rd to 26th Street, through Dec. 31.)

BENJAMIN GENOCCHIO