

August 21, 2013

## VIDEO: Cedar and the Saw with Ursula von Rydingsvard

by *Kristen Boatright*



German-born sculpture artist Ursula von Rydingsvard openly champions the “soft, sensuous” qualities of cedar wood –a material she uses almost exclusively in her practice – as well as her team’s unique use of the circular saw.

The 71-year-old von Rydingsvard has worked in Brooklyn for more than thirty years. After leaving her Williamsburg studio on South 5th Street, she’s been in Bushwick for more than a decade.

“Brooklyn has been a little bit like a rough mother that provided me with sanctuaries that were incredibly important for the making of my work, for the creating of my work,” she says.

Her first permanent commission in the borough will be installed later this month outside of the entrance to the Barclays Center. “Ona,” a nearly 20-foot sculpture, was created first in cedar, then cast in bronze. Its title, according to the artist, references the female.

Up next, von Rydingsvard has an extensive exhibition opening at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in April, which will feature many indoor and outdoor sculptures outside of the UK museum. She will also have a large pounded-copper installation, comprised of more than 3,500 individual sections, outside of the new Andlinger research center at Princeton University.

You can read more about von Rydingsvard in the September issue of *Modern Painters*.