

ARTNEWS

The Top of the Tree: Ursula von Rydingsvard in Venice

BY *Barbara A. MacAdam* POSTED 05/07/15 5:07 AM



Ursula Von Rydingsvard in Yorkshire sculpture park.

KATHERINE MCMAHON/ARTNEWS

Context matters: proof is looking at [Ursula von Rydingsvard's sculptures in the Giardino della Marinaressa](http://www.ysp.co.uk/exhibitions/ursula-von-rydingsvard-in-venice) (<http://www.ysp.co.uk/exhibitions/ursula-von-rydingsvard-in-venice>). Set in this small park, the mostly cedar works could have grown in the garden like a native species, so comfortable are they in the setting. In fact, the park was designed for the location—it had long been an abandoned and untended site. Besides the huge cedar-tree works, one with a carved lacy top where leaves might be—there is a shocking, other-worldly translucent-blue sculpture made of resin that has been cast in cedar. Islands of greener-than-real grass and light-tan cedar-chip walkways create a delightful consistency.

Curated by Peter Murray Founding and Executive Director of Yorkshire Sculpture Park, where the works were part of a huge von Rydingsvard exhibition, this show, an official collateral event of the biennale, includes a small, carefully selected number of pieces. A respite from the cacophony of the biennale activities, the park conveys Von Rydingsvard's warm and subtle sensibility.