

# URSULA VON RYDINGSVARD

♡ Like Abakanowicz, von Rydingsvard comes out of an Eastern European context that held a kind of deprivation. Her parents were Eastern European refugees in East Germany, where the family lived until 1950 when they emigrated to the United States before the artist's 10th birthday. *Untitled (Nine Cones)*, 1976, is a transitional work in her oeuvre because it was made around the time she discovered and started making sculpture in cedar, which is quite malleable

and creates a real materiality in her work. She uses a lot of open forms, carving into the piece to make shapes. This is one of her more minimal early pieces. There's a repetition of nine forms that stand almost four feet tall; they are arranged in rows and the scale is fairly large—it's almost human scale. Following this, von Rydingsvard went on to make much larger-scale public commissions and to rub graphite into the cedar to change the color and texture of her works. —JS

