

## Ursula von Rydingsvard at The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia

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"Ocean Floor," 1996, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Cedar, graphite, cow intestines. 3 x 13 x 11 feet.  
(Courtesy Ursula von Rydingsvard and Galerie Lelong & Co., New York. Photo credit: Carlos Avendaño.)

[Ursula von Rydingsvard](#) (/artists/5647-ursula-von-rydingsvard)'s "The Contour of Feeling" is on view at The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia. [Ursula von Rydingsvard](#) (/artists/5647-ursula-von-rydingsvard) is considered one of the most influential sculptors of the present day. The exhibition, guest curated by Mark Rosenthal, focuses on von Rydingsvard's artistic expansion since 2000 and her commitment to experimentation that has continued throughout her career spanning decades.

"The Contour of Feeling" highlights a selection of early sculptures by the artist that throws light on Rydingsvard's long standing material and thematic interests. It features around 20 works, including large-scale sculptures and works that have never been exhibited in the United States previously. The exhibition also marks the debut of a new massive leather sculpture that the artist has created in collaboration with The Fabric Workshop and Museum specifically for the exhibition.

“The giant leather jacket entitled PODERWAC, which resulted from von Rydingsvard’s residency, exemplifies the unexpected outcome of an artist being given ample time and resources to experiment. The jacket took almost 900 hours of sewing; when I commented that there was something wonderfully tortured about this work, Ursula’s response was ‘good — that’s what I wanted!’” says Susan Lubowsky Talbott, Executive Director of the Fabric Workshop and Museum.

Referring to the grouping and arrangement of the exhibits, curator Mark Rosenthal explains, “In reflecting on what we could bring to the telling of von Rydingsvard’s artistic narrative, I came to be motivated by what our exhibition would not be. Instead of the familiar outdoor sculpture garden environment, the show will focus on the interior Ursula...the half of her art that is born in the sphere of feelings, poetry, and personal touch.”

The exhibition is inspired by the words of poet Rainer Maria Rilke: “We don’t know the contour of a feeling; we only know what molds it from without.”

[Ursula von Rydingsvard](#) (/artists/5647-ursula-von-rydingsvard) is famous for her large-scale sculptures, her abstract shapes, and her signature use of cedar wood, which together evoke the majesty and mystery of nature. Her work is part of over 30 museum collections, including the collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, and the Detroit Institute of Arts, Michigan.

*The exhibition runs through August 26, 2018, at the The Fabric Workshop and Museum, 1214 Arch St, Philadelphia, PA 19107, USA.*