



KULTURA

URSULA VON RYDINGSVARD "ART ONLY"

Monumental sculptures by Ursula von Rydingsvard evoke the ancient notion of the sublime. When we look at her works, placed in parks, squares or in the magnificent architecture of American buildings, they delight us with their dynamic form. They testify to the amazing ability of the artist to create poetic works made of cedar wood, charged with a personal emotional touch.

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During her over forty years of artistic practice, Ursula von Rydingsvard has gained the ability to cross cultural boundaries that reflect her intellectual and psychological development. She is one of the few sculptors in the world who use a unique monumental form, combining precision and diligence reminiscent of medieval artists with modern abstract art, which she has given its own unique character.

The immediate impulse to organize the artist's exhibition in Poland was the presentation of six sculptures in the newly restored public space Giardino della Marinaressa at the 56th Venice Biennale in 2015, organized by Peter Murrey and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park team. It was widely echoed in the world of art and media. Ursula von Rydingsvard is one of the most famous artists in the United States. Her work can be found in major art collections and venues, such as the New York Museum of Modern Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Madison Museum of Contemporary Art in Wisconsin, National Gallery of Art in Washington, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, the Storm King Art Center Sculpture Park near New York and many other important cultural and scientific institutions.

The exhibition of Ursula von Rydingsvard, who lives and works in New York, is presented to the Polish audience in three places: the Center of Polish Sculpture in Orońsko, the National Museum in Krakow and the Royal Łazienki Park in Warsaw. Its co-organizers are Ursula von Rydingsvard's Studio in New York and the Lelong Gallery.

The subtitle of our exhibition "Tylko Sztuka / Nothing but Art" emphasizes our passion and total dedication to art. His inspiration was the artist's text "Why do I create art? / Why do I make Art?" - a kind of litany listing the spiritual, life and artistic reasons for its activities.

The show at the Sculpture Center in Orońsko, including twelve sculptures made of cedar wood, one of animal intestines and one of polyurethane resin, eleven drawings and one installation made of ready-made objects, is a representative cross-section of the artist's work. The sculptures are presented at the Museum of Contemporary Sculpture, Galeria Oranżeria and the park space, where you will be able to see the works of the First, Scratch and Elegantek.

The oldest sculpture *Untitled (nine cones)* (1976) comes from the early period of creativity, when the texture of the works is undulating, giving them a dynamic character, but does not yet achieve such expressive expression as in his later works. The work *The Bottom of the Ocean* (1996), which is very important in her oeuvre, and contains elements made of animal intestines, was created by the artist while experimenting with various materials. The remaining sculptures and drawings shown at the exhibition come from the last period of creativity, characterized by certainty and monumental, often dramatic form. The installation *Nothing* (2002–2021), composed of ready-made objects, is each time composed differently from things found and collected by Ursula von Rydingsvard. On a daily basis, they can be found in the artist's studio,

The play by Ursula von Rydingsvard deserves our attention all the more, as the author comes from a Polish-Ukrainian family who was deported to Germany for forced labor during World War II, and then chose to emigrate to the United States. Ursula, née Karoliszyn, was born in Deensen, Germany in 1942.

Parents came from Podhale. Her childhood experiences and her country of origin left an emotional mark on her works. The towers, wooden bowls, tools, shovels and walls echo the family heritage. Even though she has never lived in Poland, she gives her sculptures Polish titles and feels connected with her homeland.

He has lived in the United States since 1950, initially with his family in Plainville, Connecticut, and from 1973 in New York. She studied at several universities: University of New Hampshire in Durham (1962), University of Miami, Coral Gables in Florida (1964), University of California in Berkeley (1970) and Columbia University in New York, where she received her artistic education in 1975. Since then, he has been creating sculptures, most often in cedar wood, as well as bronze and polyurethane resins. They are inspired by nature, non-European art - Africa, Australia and Oceania, as well as the tradition of folk art and wooden sculpture (especially Podhale). In addition, he deals with drawing created on hand-made abaca paper.

The exhibition is the second presentation of Ursula von Rydingsvard's art in Poland. The first took place in 1992 at the Center for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle in Warsaw and was an important event in the artist's life. The present day is a kind of return to her native country after 30 years.

The exhibition includes three films about the life, work and art of Ursula von Rydingsvard. Two by Marcin Giżycki and Peter O'Neill: "The Making of Hand-e-over" (1997) and "Unorthodox Geometry" (1998) and one by Daniel Traub: "Into Her Own", 2019, which was recognized in 2020 for one of the top 10 documentaries in the United States.

Organizers:

Center of Polish Sculpture in Orońsko

National Museum in Krakow

Royal Łazienki Museum in Warsaw

Lelong Gallery

Ursula von Rydingsvard's studio in New York

The works come from Ursula von Rydingsvard's Studio in New York , Lelong Gallery and the collection of the Center for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle in Warsaw

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Elegantka 2011, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Courtesy Galerie Lelong Co. Photo by Andy Ryan

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Center of Polish Sculpture in Orońsko, ul. Topolowa 1, 26-5050 Orońsko

<https://rzezba-oronsko.pl/ursula-von-rydingsvard-tylko-sztuka/>

The exhibition will be presented in the premises of the Museum of Contemporary Sculpture, Oranżeria Gallery and in the Sculpture Park

Curator: Eulalia Domanowska