

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ursula von Rydingsvard: The Contour of Feeling

April 30 – September 11, 2022



Ursula von Rydingsvard: The Contour of Feeling is an ambitious celebration of one of the most influential sculptors working today. On view April 30 – September 11, 2022, *The Contour of Feeling* is the artist's first solo exhibition in Denver. von Rydingsvard is renowned for her towering cedar and bronze public outdoor sculptures; this exhibition provides a unique, indoor opportunity to experience a large collection of cedar sculptures and works on paper.

The Contour of Feeling is guest curated by Mark Rosenthal, former curator at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. and is organized by The Fabric Workshop and Museum (FWM) in Philadelphia. The exhibition is included with general admission.

The exhibition focuses on work made since 2000, anchored by early work from the 1970s – 1980s and a grouping of small objects collected and created by the artist, including strands of her brother's hair, fragments of cedar, knitting, linen and personal photographs. von Rydingsvard's abstract works on handmade linen paper incorporate surprising materials—such as knotted silk from a red scarf, tangles of thread, hair, lace, graphite and pigment—into the paper medium itself.

RELATED PROGRAMS (all tickets include general admission to the Gardens.)

[Film Screening and Q&A](#) with the artist: *Ursula von Rydingsvard: Into Her Own*

April 29, 6-8 p.m.

\$15, \$12 member

Screening of the feature-length documentary *Ursula von Rydingsvard: Into Her*, followed by a Q&A with the artist. The film follows some of von Rydingsvard's recent commissions from beginning to final installation,

including those for MIT and Princeton University. It also explores her early struggles, passion and profound drive to become an artist. Takes place in the Freyer – Newman Center’s Sturm Family Auditorium.

Curator Conversations: The Contour of Feeling

May 12, June 16, July 28, August 18, 9:30-10:15 am

\$19, \$15 member, \$13 student

Explore *The Contour of Feeling* with a curator and discover one of the most influential sculptors working today.

Science Studio for Homeschool Families: From Plants to Paper

July 10 and 11, 10-11:30 a.m. or 1:30-3 p.m.

\$14 child, \$12 member child, One free adult per child, \$7 additional adult/non-participating child ages 3 up.

Plant fibers are used to make a number of everyday items such as paper, rope or t-shirts. Join us to take a closer look at how plant fibers are used to make paper. Try your hand at making your own unique paper, inspired the *Ursula von Rydingsvard: The Contour of Feeling* exhibition. This program is designed for families with children ages 7 – 12.

Film Screening: Ursula von Rydingsvard: Into Her Own

August 18, 4-5:30 p.m.

\$15, \$12 member

Screening of the feature-length documentary *Ursula von Rydingsvard: Into Her Own*, directed by Daniel Traub. The film follows some of von Rydingsvard's recent commissions from beginning to final installation, including those for MIT and Princeton University. It also explores her early struggles, passion and profound drive to become an artist. Takes place in the Freyer – Newman Center’s Sturm Family Auditorium.

RBC Wealth Management is the presenting sponsor of Denver Botanic Gardens’ 2022 exhibitions.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ursula von Rydingsvard was born in 1942 in Deensen, Germany. The daughter of a woodcutter from a long line of peasant farmers, she spent her early years in the wooden barracks of refugee camps at the end of World War II. While the artist resists straightforward biographical readings of her works, she speaks of those critical years of her youth as woven into her subconscious or instinct, which in turn leaves an imprint on her art. She often uses variations of Polish words for titles, which she prefers to leave untranslated to preserve the enigmatic nature of her work. Her work is part of more than 30 museum collections, including: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, NY and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN. She has received honors including a Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in the Arts from the National Museum of Women in the Arts, the International Sculpture Center Lifetime Achievement Award and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. The artist lives in New York City and works in Brooklyn.

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Images: Ursula von Rydingsvard, *Ocean Floor*, cedar, graphite, and intestines, 1996, 36 x 156 x 132 inches. Artwork © Ursula von Rydingsvard. Photograph by Carlos Avedaño, courtesy of The Fabric Workshop Museum, 2018. || Ursula von Rydingsvard, *Untitled*, fabric, thread, yarn, and pigment on linen handmade paper, 2017, 29.5 x 28.5 inches. Artwork © Ursula von Rydingsvard and Galerie Lelong & Co. Photo by Etienne Frossard, courtesy of Ursula von Rydingsvard Studio, 2017. || Ursula von Rydingsvard, *COŚ*, cedar and graphite, 2017, 110 x 52 x 35 inches. Artwork © Ursula von Rydingsvard. Photograph by Bodycomb, courtesy of Ursula von Rydingsvard and Galerie Lelong & Co., New York.

Ursula van Rydingsvard: The Contour of Feeling is organized by The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, and guest curator Mark Rosenthal, and is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts; Heidi and Tom McWilliams; Agnes Gund; Harvey S. Shipley Miller, the Shipley Miller Foundation; the Arcadia Foundation; Barbara B. and Theodore R. Aronson; the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation; Katie Adams Schaeffer and Tony Schaeffer; Maja Paumgarten and John Parker; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; ForGood Fund; Henry S. McNeil; Constance H. Williams; Jill and Sheldon Bonovitz; Tony and Lynn Hitschler; and Anonymous Donors.

About Denver Botanic Gardens: Green inside and out, Denver Botanic Gardens was founded in 1951 and is considered one of the top botanical gardens in the United States and a pioneer in water conservation. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the Gardens' living collections encompass specimens from the tropics to the tundra, showcasing a plant palette chosen to thrive in Colorado's semi-arid climate. The Gardens is a dynamic, 24-acre urban oasis in the heart of the city, offering unforgettable opportunities to flourish with unique garden experiences for the whole family – as well as world-class education and plant conservation research programs. Additional sites extend this experience throughout the Front Range: Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms is a 700-acre native plant refuge with an active farm in Jefferson County; Mount Goliath is a high-altitude trail and interpretive site on the Mount Evans Scenic Byway. The Gardens also manages programming at Plains Conservation Center in Aurora. For more information, visit us online at www.botanicgardens.org.