

Landmarks Guide for Younger Children



Ursula von Rydingsvard

American, born in Germany, 1942

Untitled (Seven Mountains)

1986–88

Cedar and graphite powder

Subject: Shapes found in nature

Activity: Making a sculpture from wood

Materials: Popsicle sticks, tongue depressors, wooden chopsticks, scissors, and glue

Vocabulary: Organic, geometric, sculptor, carve

i Introduction

Ursula von Rydingsvard is a sculptor who works in wood. Her father was a woodcutter. In her sculptures, she builds a large cube of wood by stacking and gluing wooden beams together. Using hand tools, von Rydingsvard then carves into the cube to create another shape. She uses natural materials to recreate shapes and forms found in nature. Von Rydingsvard uses a simple form (square wooden beams) to create more complex forms (the triangle or pyramid) and then an even more complex arrangement (a row or range of pyramids). She enjoys working in an expressive style and believes viewers should have their own personal responses to works of art.

? Questions

How are these Seven Mountains different than mountains we find in nature?

What else does this row of triangles look like?

How would a manmade mountain differ from a natural one?

What are some other shapes that are commonly found in nature?

Ursula von Rydingsvard, continued



Activity

Ask an adult to cut popsicle sticks, tongue depressors, and/or wooden chopsticks into different lengths. Experiment with stacking the shapes to create different forms. Try to make a square, triangle, or circle out of the different lengths of wood. Use glue to adhere them together.



Vocabulary

Organic - Looking like shapes found in nature

Geometric - Using simple shapes and elements such as lines, circles, squares, and triangles

Sculptor - An artist who makes works of art that have height, width, and depth

Carve - To cut away from a surface