

# Into the Wood

Contemporary Artists Working in Wood

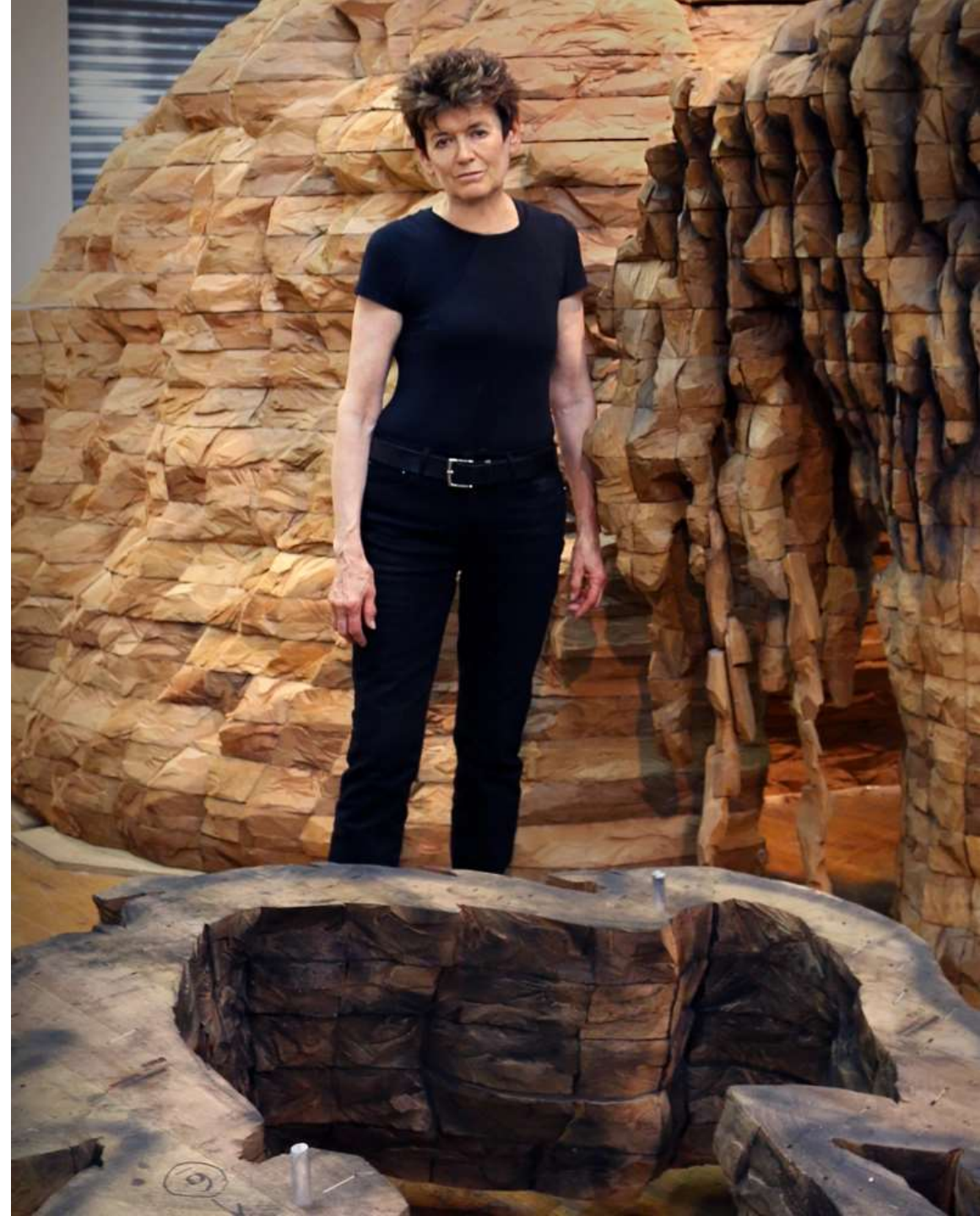
# Ursula von Rydingsvard

Ursula von Rydingsvard is a sculptor who lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She is best known for creating large-scale works influenced by nature, primarily using cedar and other forms of timber.

Ursula von Rydingsvard's massive sculptures reveal the trace of the human hand and resemble wooden bowls, tools, and walls that seem to echo the artist's family heritage in pre-industrial Poland before World War II. She builds towering cedar structures, creating an intricate network of individual beams and sensuous, puzzle-like surfaces. While abstract at its core, von Rydingsvard's work takes visual cues from the landscape, the human body, and utilitarian objects—such as the artist's collection of household vessels—and demonstrates an interest in the point where the man-made meets nature.

<https://art21.org/watch/extended-play/ursula-von-rydingsvard-becoming-an-artist-short/> (4 mins)

<https://art21.org/watch/art-in-the-twenty-first-century/s4/ursula-von-rydingsvard-in-ecology-segment/> (13 minutes)





















# Giuseppe Penone

Giuseppe Penone is an Italian artist and sculptor, known for his large-scale sculptures of trees that are interested in the link between man and the natural world. His early work is often associated with the Arte povera movement. In 2014, Penone was awarded the prestigious Praemium Imperiale award.

<https://gagosian.com/quarterly/2020/01/09/video-giuseppe-penone-fort-mason/> (5 mins)















# Leonardo Drew

**Leonardo Drew** is a [contemporary artist](#) based in [Brooklyn, New York](#). He creates [sculptures](#) from [natural materials](#) and through processes of [oxidation](#), burning, and decay, Drew transforms these objects into massive sculptures that [critique](#) social [injustices](#) and the cyclical nature of existence.

<https://art21.org/watch/art-in-the-twenty-first-century/s7/leonardo-drew-in-investigation-segment/> (18 minutes)













# Alison Elizabeth Taylor

Alison Elizabeth Taylor “paints” with wood. Trained as a painter, Taylor uses thin wood veneers to create collaged, [trompe l’oeil](#) images. Her work constitutes a modern update of the ancient craft of marquetry or inlaid wood intarsia, in which various colored materials are cut to form an image. She first explored the art form with a friend’s grade-school photograph, and has since expanded her work to more abstract arrangements of various colors and grains of wood, meant to evoke the battered plywood sheets left on construction sites around New York City. Taylor has also returned to her roots in pieces that combine marquetry trees based on photographs taken in New York with fiery skylscapes shot in the Southwest.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9y162RAPyvc>















# Candace Sanderson

A sculptor from Northern Alberta, Canada with strong roots in British Columbia's Gulf Islands, I create contemporary sculptural work. With a focus on my relationship with the urban and rural environments of my two homes, my current work is representational of the human form as part of a larger social reality.

Most days you can find me in my Alberta studio, the rest of the time I'm visiting my retro-fitted shipping container on Gabriola Island for inspiration.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tQ90-5YLI8>  
(6 mins)













# Eva Jospin

**Eva Jospin** is a French artist known for her elaborate cardboard sculptures. As evidenced in her work *Details D'Une Forêt* (2011), which details a section of forest in bas-relief, Jospin lends a sense of complicated depth to her sculptures despite them being constructed entirely out of flat planes. Her work addresses the intrinsic relationship and highlights the strangeness of cardboard acting as a stand-in for an earlier form of itself—wood. Born in 1975 in Paris, France, Jospin is the daughter of the former French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin. Though she began by studying architecture, Jospin soon switched her attention to sculpture and found she preferred the physicality of making objects by hand. She has been the subject of many exhibitions throughout Europe, notably including the Palais de Tokyo in 2012. She lives and works in Paris, France.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BknkiiY2zjg> 1.5 mins









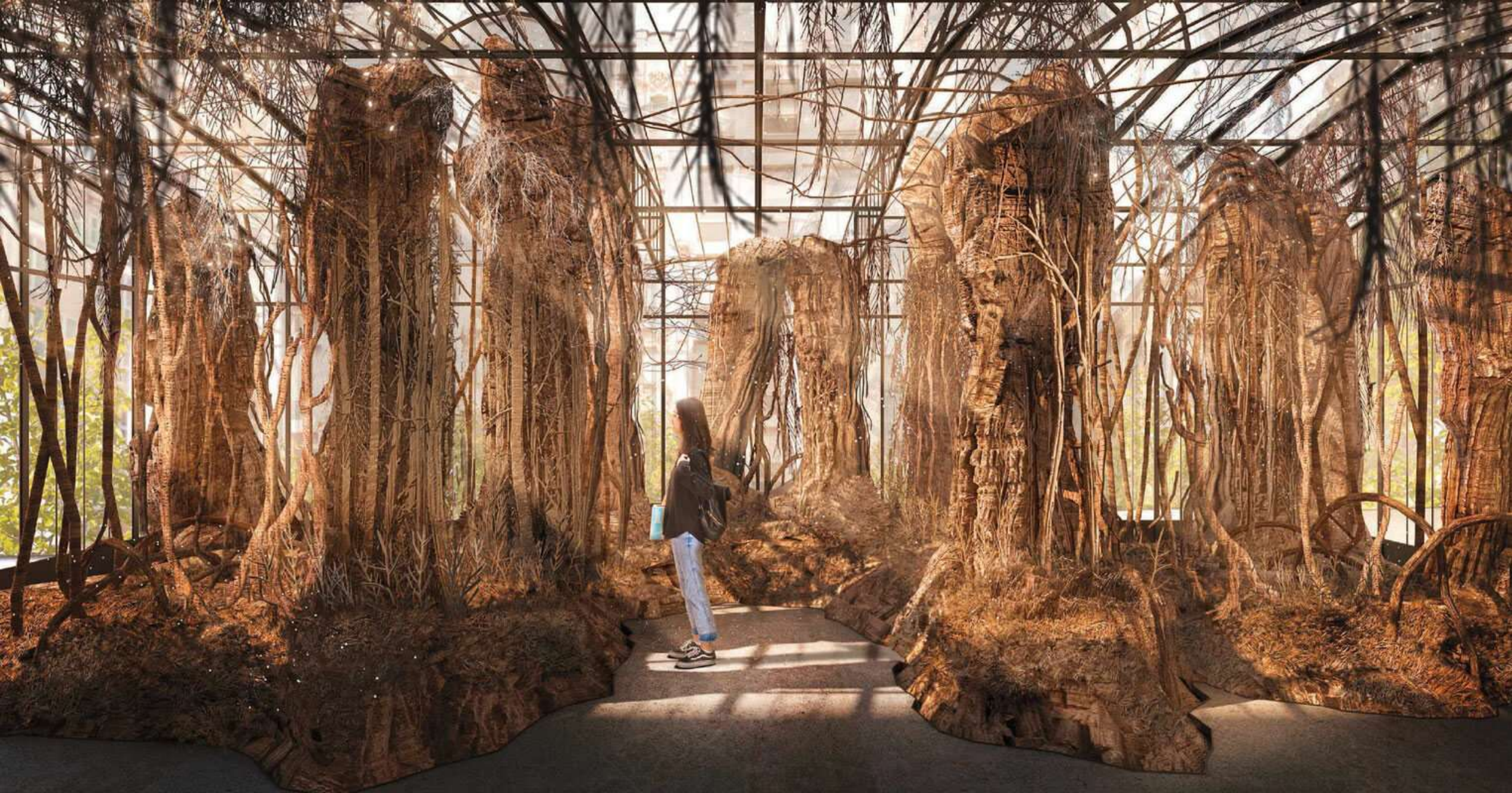




Eva Jospin  
08 Jun. - 26 Jul. 2019













# Martin Puryear

Martin L. Puryear is an American artist known for his devotion to traditional craft. Working in wood and bronze, among other media, his reductive technique and meditative approach challenge the physical and poetic boundaries of his materials.

Martin Puryear addresses the interconnected narratives around the fabrication and installation of his works, as evidenced by his monumental public sculpture *Big Bling* (2016). “There’s a story in the making of objects,” said the artist in an archival interview with Art21. “There’s a narrative in the fabrication of things, which to me is fascinating.”

Because Puryear could not produce the colossal 40-foot sculpture in his studio, he worked with a team of expert manufacturers to realize his vision. At Unalam, a specialty lumber fabricator in Sidney, New York, glulam wood beams were bent to create the tight curves specified by his design. Jon Lash of Digital Atelier explains how materials such as chain link fencing were chosen to create an industrial-looking surface, which contrasts with the golden “bling” at the sculpture’s peak.

- <https://art21.org/watch/extended-play/martin-puryear-big-bling-short/> (4 mins)

















# Shadow of the Turning, the Art of Binh Pho

Binh Pho was a Vietnamese-American artist best known for his pierced and painted works in wood.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zg87zXe6j98> (12 mins)

























# Christian Burchard

Christian Burchard (b. 1955) is a woodworker who is self taught on the lathe and most known for his wood turned vessel forms and sculptures. His wood of choice is Pacific Mandrone burl because as it dries, it warps, allowing the wood to take its own shape.

He apprenticed to a furniture maker in Germany, attended the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the Emily Carr College in Vancouver. His work can be found in the collection of the Museum of Art and Design, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Renwick Gallery, the Wood Turning Center, and the de Young Museum, among others.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeVnsdOwfNw> (8 mins)

















# Matt Calder

East Devon artist and musician Matt Calder turns sculptural forms using spalted beech and sycamore, inspired by his experience of Japanese ceramics. Matt has a particular passion for "things inside things inside things..." originally inspired by his wife's pregnancy, and in this film he makes an egg form.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=igy9THUkzPY>



# Assignment Suggestions...

- Incorporate wood in an artwork
- Create your own cardboard forest
- Create an artwork inspired by wood grain or bark texture