

Kazuo Kadanaga works on tree trunks for Sculptures on the Mountain

Show the character of the tree



Kazuo Kadanaga with the eight-meter-long tree trunks that he is just going to cut a chainsaw (Photo Rob Leenarts)

By MIRELLE DERKS

WAGENINGEN - With the umbrella firmly clamped in his hand, he looks at the tree trunks waiting to be processed. Kazuo Kadanaga will work on fifteen tree trunks with a chainsaw for the Images on the Mountain exhibition in the next two weeks. It has started to rain and that is not convenient.

Once the notches have been made, the wood must be left for another month to dry out and shrink, making the carved figures more visible. Yesterday afternoon the tree trunks weighing thousands of kilos each were delivered to the Arboretum Belmonte. Eight meters long and with a diameter of fifty to eighty centimeters. Now the first thing to do is to 'peel' the trees, to remove the bark from the trunks. In any case, Mathieu Witmondts has already been recruited for this, who has extensive experience in this area.

Acquired in the tropical rainforests of the Amazon region in South America, where he spent several years chopping down two hectares of trees and processing them into planks and works of art. The 47-year-old Kadanaga is an artist who has made a name for himself over the last twenty years, creating works of art from natural materials. Starting with trees and bamboo, he has expanded his choice of materials to paper, silk and now also glass.

Two of his works (one made of paper and one of wood) are in the possession of the Kröller Möllermuseum in Hoenderloo. Since 1981 he has also exhibited several times in Galerie Nouvelles Images in The Hague.

However, the greatest interest in his work comes from the United States. Against a hill The fifteen tree trunks will be given a place in the Arboretum for the sixth edition of Images on the Mountain near the statue of Huub Kortekaas. The tree trunks will be lifted on a base about forty centimeters from the ground against a small hill on the side of the Neder-Rijn.

Kadanaga saws series number eight with the chainsaw. A play of lines in which the tree trunk is, as it were, divided into a pattern of rectangular squares.

Because the trunks dry and shrink, spaces of about five centimeters will occur between the cuts. The wood has to start working in the month before the opening, June 6, and will be put in the four months that it has been on display i change due to the weather.

That is also the most important thing in his work: 1 showing the character of the wood, letting it come out. It fits right in this year's concept in which nature is central, says coordinator Netty van de Kamp, who is currently planning the artworks.

The nature no longer serves as a backdrop for the 1 works, but both are strongly interwoven. "It's going to be easy," shouts Wit | mouth when he begins to cut the logs peel.

"This has to be done manually," he explains. "A peeling machine creates ridges in the wood." And that would be detrimental to the work of Kadanaga. Netty van de Kamp is in press talks to come up with a solution for the rain. A tarpaulin must be provided under which to work and under which the trunks, once worked, can dry for a month. The tribes also partially protect themselves, Kadanaga explains.

"When it starts to rain, the trees themselves gradually close for protection." In the Netherlands he works with poplar wood from the *Populus Serotina*. "The first time I work with this wood, so I have to wait and see how it works. But I always work with the same concept, the tree's own character. Each tree has its own character. "Today Kadanaga starts working on the first peeled trees. He does not have a design on paper, that is in his head.