

VOGUE MEN'S

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ART

crooked timber

Ugo Rondinone goes out on a limb with a public display of his artistic obsession.

Trees would seem to be wholesome enough subject matter for an artist. But in the hands of Ugo Rondinone, they've been downright creepy at times. (The 43-year-old Swiss-born, New York-based artist has wrapped real trees in rubber tape, echoing his photos of a *model imprisoned in shiny black sensory-deprivation gear*.) Now, at the end of January, the public art outfit Creative Time will install two new Rondinone trees in Manhattan's Battery Park City. Both sculptures were first cast in rubber from 2,000-year-old olive trees, still living and unharmed, near Naples, Italy, and then recast in aluminum and painted white.

They are over 15 feet high, and their wind-turned branches and epoch-gnarled bark will amplify your worries about time. While Rondinone's teeming multimedia installations have always toyed with art

insiders' minds, these solitary pieces will have to tough it out on their own, resonating only with their proximity to our own site frozen in time, Ground Zero.—OWEN PHILLIPS

BRANCH OFFICE
At the Fonderia d'Arte in Naples, a fabricator is at work on the sculpture *get up girl a sun is running this world*.

