

Advânio Lessa

Lavras Novas, MG, Brazil, 1981

Energia [Energy],
2014–16/2024, São João
vine and garlic vine, various
roots, sawdust with glue

Vida/Life – Acervo Studio
Advânio Lessa Collection

Advânio Lessa’s work is intimately connected to agricultural activity and the region of Lavras Novas, both in terms of its organic nature and its *quilombola* history and organization. His work springs from the confluence of legacies received from his father’s family—descendants of *tropeiros* [drovers], who blazed paths in the jungle to circulate valuable goods—and his mother’s family, where the tradition of basketry has spanned generations. The matrix of “his service”—as he likes to say—is the knowledge of his ancestors regarding forest and land management, and the refinement and interweaving of materials. The result is large-scale sculptures, permeated by rich details, which incorporate and rework trunks, branches, gourds, vines, roots, and other elements collected from the surroundings of where he lives and works. Through a process of deep and reverent understanding, involving perceptions and exchanges with organic fibers, Advânio Lessa creates characteristic elements and formal solutions, applying them in compositions that emphasize the transformation, movement, and multiplication of life. Between the baroque and the biological element, his work originates a new vegetation, with abstract and fluid forms that vigorously reinvent the forest and its beings, leaves, and fruits. Each piece refers to the same expanding set, as if they all came from the same ecology but carried a specific vital charge, revealing the molecular essence and flows that form everything that exists.