

Mestre Nado

Olinda, PE, Brazil, 1945

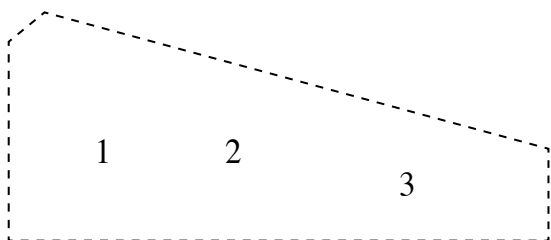
1 ***A forma do som I***
[The Shape of the
Sound I], 2024, clay

All works are from the series
Esculturas [Sculptures]

2 ***A forma do som II***
[The Shape of the
Sound II], 2024, clay

Artist's collection

3 ***A forma do som III***
[The Shape of the
Sound III], 2024, clay



Mestre Nado, as Aguinaldo da Silva is known, is a sculptor-instrumentalist who creates singing ceramic pieces. His art comes from his intimate relationship with clay, from which he shapes various forms which, in turn, mold the artist's life. As a child, Mestre Nado began by molding toys with clay taken from the riverbanks in the Zona da Mata region of Pernambuco. As a teenager, he started working in pottery workshops, where he learned to make *quartinhas*—ceramic lidded vessels that keep their contents cool—and clay filters. Over time, his talent and devotion to the craft led him to refine traditional techniques and invent his own, discovering ideal mixtures and points in the clay to mold and withstand the intense heat of the kiln. When he began his own artistic production, Mestre Nado delved into his memories for inspiration: the whistles he made as a child with pumpkin and coconut stems and the singing of the potters while they worked. In his skilled handling of the material, between molding and firing, his quest is for new notes and octaves with perfect tuning, producing a collection of original musical instruments. As universal tool-icons, they evoke both pre-Columbian material culture and artifacts from a distant future. His pieces come in various shapes and, naturally, different

sounds. There are zoomorphic sculptures that allude to whales and anteaters, and others that resemble shells and fruits. Some are simpler, with rounded synthetic shapes, while others are intricate, seeming to amalgamate parts of different natures. In common, these works, which are often also made to be played, carry his unmistakable style, balancing the rawness of the clay, ornamental solutions, and experimental musicality. They are both talismans made from the encounter between earth, water, and fire, and devices that, under the infusion of air, sing their forms, propagating a wide range of sounds.