

Paulo Pires

Poxoréu, MT, Brazil, 1972

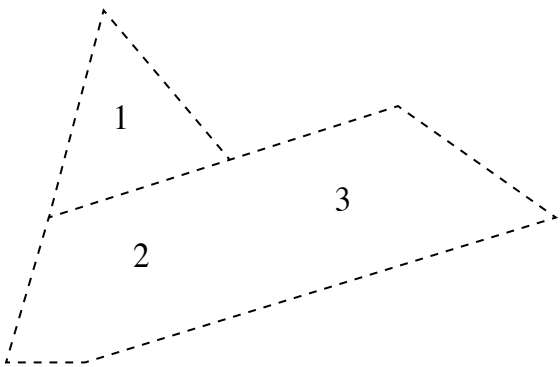
1 ***Os desejos da pedra*** [The Desires of the Stone], 2023, sandstone

Courtesy of Almeida & Dale

* Artist's collection

2 ***A sensualidade da Pedra*** [The Sensuality of the Stone], 2022, sandstone *

3 ***O namoro da pedra*** [The Courtship of the Stone], 2021, sandstone



Paulo Pires’s work unfolds through the acceptance of the raw state of sandstone and the extrasensory listening to natural matter, accessing what it invokes as new possibilities. His process only begins when the stones are “howling”: it is their spiritual disposition that will show the way. The artist’s method—involving water baths to soften and precise cuts to shape—combines sensibility with brute force. To give shape to ideas, Paulo Pires opens a two-way channel between his hands and the substance, forming an energetic current through which feelings and emotions flow between creator and creature. In this interplay, in which the stone is both raw material and a grand metaphor, a sensitive weave is traced between the essence of the rock and the figure of the human body, from which embraces, caresses, dances, couplings, clusters, and other aggregations emerge. Thus, the artist sculpts affections in the mineral, through gestures that correspond to them, embedding a particular synthesis of human dynamics and aspirations

in the world. Between hardness and malleability, his pieces offer dynamic images that seem to transform with each new perspective. Through animating the inanimate, Paulo Pires reflects on universal issues as well as subjectivities, everyday narratives, personal experiences, and imaginative tales. There is always the weight of life, but also the flexible capacity for invention and reinvention stemming from the force of creation. In the monothematic scope of his work, the artist asserts similarity through difference, inviting us to see that, while the greater nature is immutable, there are infinite—and ever-renewed—ways of existing.