

**D'un morceau de bois, Fernando Rodrigues dos Santos  
fait naître une galerie de personnages.**

A piece of wood became an entire gallery of characters  
in the hands of Fernando Rodrigues dos Santos.

## **RODRIGUES DOS SANTOS Fernando**

1928-2009, Pão de Açúcar (Brésil)

### **BIOGRAPHIE**

Fils de sabotier, Fernando Rodrigues dos Santos travaille comme ouvrier agricole et fabrique de petits objets en bois dans l'atelier paternel. À 40 ans, il crée sa première grande pièce, une chaise longue. Ses chaises, tables, bancs et tabourets aux formes naturelles lui valent une renommée nationale, et ses œuvres sont considérées comme de véritables sculptures, tout comme ses personnages, têtes et animaux aux allures étranges. Sculptant directement dans les souches ou troncs, il confère expressivité et vie à ses figures, parfois inspirées des notables du village.

En 1987, plusieurs œuvres ont été exposées au Grand Palais à Paris dans « Brésil, arts populaires ». En 2001, il reçoit le prix pour l'environnement du designer Arthur Casas. Depuis 2017, son nom est associé à l'Espaço de Memória Artesão Fernando Rodrigues dos Santos, à Ilha do Ferro, qui rassemble la production d'artistes perpétuant son héritage.

## RODRIGUES DOS SANTOS Fernando

1928–2009, Pão de Açúcar (Brazil)

### BIOGRAPHY

The son of a clog maker, Fernando Rodrigues dos Santos worked as an agricultural laborer and produced small wooden objects in his father's workshop. At the age of forty, he created his first large piece, a chaise longue. His chairs, tables, benches, and stools with organic forms soon brought him national recognition, and his works came to be regarded as true sculptures, as are his figures, heads, and animals with their unusual appearances.

Carving directly into stumps or tree trunks, he endowed his figures with remarkable expressiveness and vitality, sometimes drawing inspiration from prominent villagers. In 1987, several of his works were exhibited at the Grand Palais in Paris in the exhibition *Brazil: Popular Arts*. In 2001, he received an environmental award from designer Arthur Casas.

Since 2017, his name has been associated with the *Espaço de Memória Artesão Fernando Rodrigues dos Santos* in Ilha do Ferro, a space that brings together works by artists who continue his legacy.



Fernando Rodrigues dos Santos

Sans titres, vers 1980-1990, bois sculpté, 33 × 12 × 15,5 cm, 28 × 12 × 14 cm, 32 × 12 × 15,5 cm et 35 × 18 × 15 cm

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