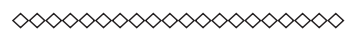


PROUD PLUMP & CURVED



Humberto da Mata
photos Bruna Bento
– Brazil –

As a child, Humberto da Mata must have been impressed by his city Brasília, the modern capital of Brazil, famous for the rotund architecture of Oscar Niemeyer. Humberto's career as a designer has seen him gradually become more fluid, introducing movement to his aesthetic, remembering the amoebic language of Brasília. First in ceramics and then amplified in bolder papier mâché pieces like lamps, mirrors and stools, Humberto has been adding volume with a tubby texture, sculpting a naïve and plump idiom. The use of paper as a craft material was the result of scarcity during the pandemic and liberated his discipline to its simple yet ecological core. Formed as a young designer at Estúdio Campana in São Paulo, he learned early on about the joy of making texture, textiles and recycling, and his love for these humble expressive materials has become part of his multilayered language, producing furniture finished with hand-stitched upholstery. This was followed by the crafting of mouldable shapes with his own hands, in his own studio, incorporating glazed ceramics and kaolin-coated paper. "The hand modelling that I use – a mixture of coiling and slabs – drove me to the development of organic form," he says.



photo Alex Batista



