SIDE GALLERY

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JOAQUIM TENREIRO (1906-1992)

Set of ten chairs
Manufactured by Tenreiro Movèis & Decorações
Brasil, 1955
Iron, fabric upholstery

Measurements
44 cm x 47 cm x 90h cm
17,32 in x 18,50 in x 35,43h in

Literature
Soraia Cals, Tenreiro, Rio de Janeiro, 1998
Aric Chen, Brazil Modern, Monaclli Press, New York city 2016
Maria Cecilia Loschiavo dos Santos, Modern Furniture in Brazil, Olhares, Sao Paulo 2015
Ruy Teixeira e Jayme Vargas, Desenho da Utopia, Olhares, Sao Paulo 2016,

Provenance
Private collection, Sao Paulo

Essay
"A principle to which I felt modern Brazilian furniture should adhere: lightness. Lightness which has nothing to do with the weight per se, but with grace and functionality in space." Joaquim Tenreiro.

Biography
Joaquim Tenreiro (1906-1992) was among leading furniture designers and visual artists in modernist Brazilian furniture making in the mid-20th century.
A forerunner in the use of rediscovered raw materials as well as the creator of a new formal language in 20th century Brazilian furniture design, he drew on the lessons of past furniture making as a vital source, not only in the mastery of technical and constructive solutions, but also in the aesthetic experience, craftsmanship, and the cultural meaning of his production. His exquisitely crafted pieces evoke a refined coexistence of traditional values and modern aesthetics, strongly bound to the Brazilian cultural milieu.
Born in Portugal to a family with a great tradition in furniture making, he moved to Brazil at the age of 22 and embraced a career as a designer by working at various furniture manufacturers such as Leandro Martins, Francisco Gomes and Laubisch & Hirth.
Tenreiro proposed a contemporary language and advocated the idea that Brazilian furniture should be "formally light…A lightness which has nothing to do with weight itself, but with graciousness, and the functionality of spaces.