

SIDE GALLERY

CORNELIS ZITMAN (1926 - 2016)



Set of four dining chairs model "Compass"

Manufactured by Tecoteca
Designed for the Hotel Humboldt,
Caracas Venezuela
Caracas (Venezuela), 1955
Teak, upholstery

Measurements

50,8 cm x 55,88 cm x 83,82h cm
20 in x 22 in x 33h in

Biography

Cornelis Zitman was born in 1926 into a family of builders. At the age of 15 he started studying at the Academy of Fine Arts in The Hague. Where his studies terminated in 1947. He then refused to enroll in the required military service, he objected the Dutch political activities in Indonesia and therefore left the country aboard a Swedish oil tanker that would take him to Venezuela.

Good quality and economic furniture was what Zitman had became known for, and it was a reputation he maintained within the Venezuelan school of design, Jorge F. Rivas Pérez describes and focuses Zitman's activity as The Decade of Design / 1947-1957 : a crucial chapter in the production of conceived and manufactured furniture in Venezuela. After the closure of the company Zitman decided to give up his entrepreneurial life and moved to the island of Grenada, where he devoted himself entirely to painting and began to assert his character as a sculptor.

Zitman participated in several international exhibitions such as the Budapest Sculpture Biennial and the São Paulo Biennial, the FIAC in Paris and the ARCO fair in Madrid. His solo exhibitions include the Galerie Dina Vierny in Paris, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Caracas, the Tokoro Gallery in Tokyo, the Museum of Modern Art in Bogotá and the Beelden aan Zee Museum in Scheveningen, the Netherlands. His sculptures seek to reproduce and exaggerate the morphology of the indigenous people of Venezuela, especially the female figure. Some of his works are in private collections and museums in various countries, such as the National Art Gallery of Caracas and the Museum of Contemporary Art of Caracas in Venezuela, and the Musée Maillol in Paris.