

# SIDE GALLERY

ILMARI TAPIOVAARA (1914-1999)



## Floor lamp model "Maija the Bee"

Manufactured by Hienoteras  
Finland, 1950's  
Brass, steel, cane, lacquer

### Measurements

14 cm x 139h cm  
5,52 in x 54,72h in

### Literature

Pekka Korvenmaa, Ilmari Tapiovaara,  
Ediciones Santa & Cole, Salamanca, 1997

### Provenance

Private collection, Helsinki

### Exhibitions

Helsinki Design Museum, 2014. "Ilmari  
Tapiovaara"

## Biography

Ilmari Tapiovaara was a designer, interior architect, and teacher, becoming a leading figure of the post-World War II design drive. Distinguished for his furnishings and interior design, Tapiovaara's work explored the possibilities of multiplicity – creating different versions of an object from a single piece. His internship at Le Corbusier's studio and his close relationship with nature made him an explorer of new design, oriented for the first time towards the general public.

Ilmari Tapiovaara was born in Hämeenlinna (Finland) in 1914 and shared a home with his 12 siblings. From a young age, Tapiovaara was in close contact with nature, as his family was involved in forestry-related occupations; his father was a forest ranger and his grandfather a cabinetmaker. The family spent the summers in the Finnish countryside, and this remained an important value consistently present in the designer's work. As Tapiovaara once said, "Nature is the best and closest manual for the industrial designer."