

SIDE GALLERY

JOAQUIM TENREIRO (1906-1992)



Armchair

Pair of set of sofa and two armchairs
Manufactured by Tenreiro Movéis & Decorações
Brazil, 1960
White leather upholstery, wood legs

Measurements

69 cm x 74 cm x 68h cm
27 in in x 29,1 in x 26,77h in

Literature

Aric Chen, Brazil Modern, Monacelli Press,
New York city 2016
Maria Cecilia Loschiavo dos Santos, Modern Furniture
in Brazil, Olhares, Sao Paulo 2015, p. 87 and 121

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.