

SIDE GALLERY

FRANCO ALBINI (1905-1977)



Small Table model "TN6 Cicognino"

Manufactured by Poggi, Pavia
Italy, 1953
Solid and teak plywood

Measurements

40 cm x 81 cm x 40 cm
15,7 in x 31,8 in x 15,7 in

Literature

R. Dulio, F. Marino, S.A. Poli, Il mondo di Poggi. L'officina del design e delle arti, Electa, Milano 2019, pp 30, 38, 63, 69, 84-85, 97-99; G. Gramigna, Le fabbriche del design. I produttori dell'arredamento domestico in Italia, Allemandi, Torino 2007, p. 190;

Provenance

Home of Ezio Poggi

Detail

In the years of production for Poggi, we sometimes find ourselves in front of real "domestic animals", which Albin evoked in his drawings. One of these is certainly the Cicognino "valet stand" table produced in 1952: one of the three slender legs extends to become a "beak-handle", making it easy to transport the object. The support surface is surrounded by a sheet of wood so as to become a tray. As observed by M. Fagiolo, the "Cicognino" is an object that seems to come out of Walt Disney's pencil, and still appears to us as an extremely current drawing (not surprisingly it is part of Albin's design pieces returned to production with the Cassina company).

Biography

Franco Albin was an Italian NeoRationalist architect and designer, he obtained his degree in architecture at Politecnico di Milano University and began his professional career working for Gio Ponti. In 1930 he opened his own practice.

In his creations, he used raw, inexpensive materials. He exploited the very skilled Italian craftsmanship. This also meant an elegant design based on a minimalist aesthetic.

In 1950 he designed the famous "Margherita" and "Gala" chairs, made of woven cane. Also in 1952 he created the « Fiorenza », in 1955 the "Luisa" chair and in 1956 the "Rocking chaise" for Poggi. Franco Albin works for many companies like: Brionvega, Cassina, Arflex, Arteluce and Poggi.

As writer and editor, from 1945 to 1946 he worked for the Italian magazine Casabella.