

SIDE GALLERY

ROBERTO SEBASTIÁN MATTA (1911 - 2002)



Chair vintage model "Magritta"

Manufactured by Studio Simon Gavina
Italy, 1970
Fabric, Fibreglass

Measurements

87 cm x 92 cm x 60h cm
34,2 in x 36,2 in x 23,6 in

Literature

Dino Gavina catalogue 1950-1992, page 85.

Biography

After graduating from university in Santiago de Chile in 1935 with a degree in architecture, Roberto Matta traveled to Europe where he met André Breton, the founder of the Surrealist movement in Europe. In 1938, he began painting and moved to the United States for ten years. During this period he sought to evoke the human psyche in his work, inspired by Freudian psychoanalysis. Matta's works became increasingly dominated by a socio-political element, which broke from the conventions of Surrealism. Matta was also a seminal figure in Abstract Expressionism but broke away from this too to develop a highly personal artistic vision. His mature works blend abstraction with elements of figuration and fantastically-conceived, multi-dimensional space. He was heavily involved in the social movements of the 1960s and '70s and a strong supporter of Salvador Allende's socialist government.

Concept

"Magritta" chair designed by Sebastian Matta (1911-2002) and produced by Studio Simon Gavina, founded by Dino Gavina for the Ultramobile series in 1971. Roberto Matta designed this chair as a tribute to his friend and fellow surrealist painter René Magritte. The name MAGriTTA is a combination of the names Magritte and Matta. The apple and black bowler hat are two of Magritte's trademarks, derived from his famous 1946 self-portrait "The Son of Man". In the painting, Magritte shows herself with a bowler hat and an apple. The surreal aspect is a green apple floating in the air hiding its face. Matta playfully adapted the painting by making a fiberglass bowler hat, upside down, with a green foam apple inside it. When sat on, the foam of the apple would have compressed into the hat.