

SIDE GALLERY

GINO SARFATTI (1912-1985)



Pair of wall lamps model "238/1"

Manufactured by Arteluce
Italy, 1952
Lacquered metal structure,
aluminium and glass diffuser

Measurements

16 cm x 24 cm x 26 h cm each
6,3 in x 9,4 in x 10,2 h in each

Literature

Catalogo Arteluce; The complete Designers
Lights (1950-1990), Clemance & Didier
Krzentoswski editions

Biography

Gino Sarfatti (September 16, 1912, Venice, Italy – March 6, 1985, Grian-te, Como, Italy) was an Italian who became known for his talent as a lighting designer. He was the founder of the light manufacturing company Arteluce.

In 1935, the League of Nations placed a sea embargo on Italy as a reaction to Mussolini's government, and the Sarfatti family's economic situation worsened considerably. At 23, Gino Sarfatti left his studies and moved to Milan, where he founded the lighting company Lumen in 1936 in partnership with Aldo Valcarengi and Dino Mondolfi. Three years later, Sarfatti decided to part ways with his partners and founded the light manufacturing company Arteluce in February 1939.

In 1954 and 1955, Sarfatti received numerous international awards, including two Compasso d'Oro awards for his lamp designs for models 559 and 1055. In 1958, he designed the renowned Pendant lamp for Arteluce. In 1962, Sarfatti decided to open a larger shop on Via della Spiga in Milan, but this time designed by Vittorio Vigano.

During the 1960s, Arteluce's business multiplied with its home lighting designs sold in Italy and internationally and with its custom Gino Sarfatti lighting designs for public buildings. As other important Italian designers, such as Nino Zoncada, Gustavo Pulitzer-Finale, Paolo de Poli, Pietro Chiesa, and Gio Ponti, during this time, Gino Sarfatti, through Arteluce, became involved in many interior and furniture design projects for the rapidly growing industry of Italian ocean liners.