

SIDE GALLERY

JOSE ZANINE CALDAS



Bench

Brazil, 1970s
Manufactured by Zanine Caldas
From "Denúncia Series"
Pequi wood

Measurements

150 x 50 x 50h cm
59,1 x 19,7 x 19,7h in

Edition

Unique piece

Provenance

Artist's studio
Private collection, Rio de Janeiro
Leonard Edwin, São Paulo

Biography

José Zanine Caldas (b. Belmonte, Bahia, 1918 - d. Vitória, Espírito Santo, 2001) was an architect and designer. Caldas stands in Brazil for his exploration of the constructive qualities of Brazilian woods, defining his work with a warm rustic ambiance, working on both high-end residential projects and famous constructions. Caldas started working in the 1940s as a designer at Severo & Villares and as a member of the National Artistic Historical Heritage Service (Sphan). He opens a maquet studio in Rio de Janeiro, where he worked between 1941 and 1948, and served important modern architects of the two cities and was responsible for most of the models presented in the book *Modern Architecture in Brazil*, 1956, by Henrique E. Mindlin (1911-1971).

During the 1940s, he also began developing and researching at the Institute of Technological Research of the University of São Paulo (IPT/USP) and was first introduced to plywood. In 1949, he founded the *Fábrica Móveis Artísticos Z*, intending to produce large-scale industrialized furniture, good quality and affordable, the furniture was to be materialised using plywood sheets. Later, the architect builds the *Casa dos Triângulos* (1970) and *Casa da Beira do Rio* (1970) in Nova Viçosa, in which he adopted a very artisanal construction system with typical woods of the region. In 1983, Caldas founded the Center for the Development of Applications of The Woods of Brazil (DAM), and gave it to UnB in 1985. During this period, he proposed the creation of the *Escola do Fazer*, a teaching center focused on the use of wood for the construction of houses, furniture and utilitarian objects for the low-income population.