

SIDE GALLERY

JOAQUIM TENREIRO



Coffee Table

Manufactured by Tenreiro Moveis e Decorações
Brazil, 1950s
Lacquered metal and jacaranda wood

Measurements

161 cm x 104 cm x 28h cm
63 in x 41 in x 11h in

Literature

S. Cals & al, Tenreiro, Icatu Publishing,
Rio de Janeiro, 2000.
(Similar copy reproduced on p.103).

Provenance

Private collection, São Paulo, Brazil

Biography

Joaquim Tenreiro (b. Melo Guarda, Portugal 1906 - d. Itapira Sao Paulo 1992) was a sculptor, painter, engraver and designer. Born into a family of joiners, at the age of two, his family emigrated to Brazil, settling in Niterói, Rio de Janeiro. In 1914 he returned to Portugal. He helped his father with woodwork projects and began painting classes. He returned to live in Brazil between 1925 and 1927. In 1928, he moved to Rio de Janeiro permanently. He studied drawing at the Portuguese Literary Lyceum and enrolled in the Liceu de Artes e Ofícios. In 1931, he joined the Bernardelli Nucleus, a group created in opposition to the academic teaching of the National School of Fine Arts - Enba.

After some years of dabbling in as a painter, Joaquim traversed his talents and went back to wood, "I stuck with painting up to a point, but gave it up because I could not stay away from the wood-working shop...what kept me going was furniture" (Soraia Cals, Tenreiro, Rio de Janeiro, 1998, p. 190). He designed for Laubish & Hirth, Leandro Martins, and Francisco Gomes, specializing in French, Italian, and Portuguese furniture. A decade later, he founded Langenbach & Tenreiro, which would become renowned for its modern furniture designs. Tenreiro's partner insisted on selling traditional furniture, while Tenreiro argued for a modern sensibility. In the early years, Tenreiro designed both conservative and modern furniture for their inventory. However, by the late 1940s, the modern movement had taken hold in Brazil, and when only Tenreiro's original pieces sold, the shop dedicated itself solely to contemporary designs.