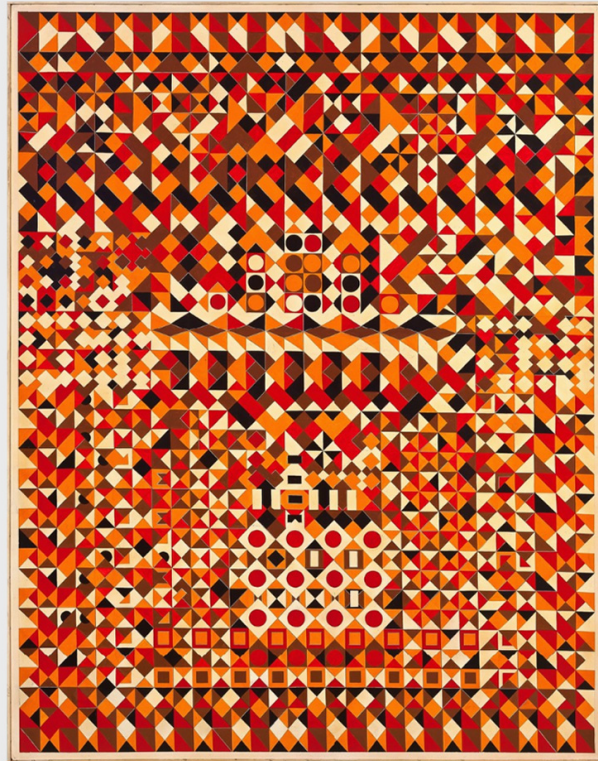


# SIDE GALLERY

JOAQUIM TENREIRO



## Orange Mosaic

Created by Joaquim Tenreiro  
Brazil, 1970s  
Paint on chipboard

## Measurements

100 cm x 130 cm  
39,4 in x 51,2 in

## Provenance

Private collection

## Biography

**Joaquim Tenreiro (1906–1992)** was a Portuguese-born Brazilian artist, sculptor, and designer, recognized as a key figure in the development of modern furniture in Brazil. Trained in both fine arts and traditional woodworking, he brought a unique sensibility to his designs—merging craftsmanship with a distinctly modern aesthetic rooted in simplicity, proportion, and material integrity.

After working for several furniture manufacturers in the 1930s and 1940s, he co-founded his own workshop and helped define the language of Brazilian modernism. His pieces, often made from native woods and characterized by lightness and geometric clarity, influenced a generation of architects and designers, and remain icons of 20th-century design.

## About

*Orange Mosaic* (ca. 1970) by Joaquim Tenreiro is a vivid geometric composition that demonstrates the artist's deepening engagement with modular abstraction and chromatic tension. Painted on chipboard, the piece unfolds as a grid of tightly composed visual cells, each constructed from repeated geometric units—triangles, circles, rectangles, and semicircles—rendered in vibrant shades of orange, ochre, cream, and black.

The composition reads almost like a visual language, where form and color operate in rhythmic sequence. Its vertical division creates a diptych-like balance, suggesting two coexisting systems of symbols or visual phrases in parallel motion. This approach reflects Tenreiro's shift during the 1970s from functional design toward a more autonomous artistic exploration.

Although widely recognized for his pioneering role in Brazilian modern furniture, Tenreiro's late works—such as *Orange Mosaic*—reveal his sustained interest in optical structure, spatial logic, and a distinctly modernist sense of order. His work engages with the broader visual culture of his time, resonating with elements of Concrete Art and Op Art as seen in the work of contemporaries like Luiz Sacilotto and Waldemar Cordeiro, while maintaining a uniquely intimate, material sensibility.

The choice of chipboard as support, a modest and industrial material, contrasts with the precision of the painted surface.