

SIDE GALLERY

JOE COLOMBO



Pair of wall lamps model "Fresnel" 1148

Manufactured by Oluce
Italy, 1960s
Painted aluminium, pressed glass

Measurements (each lamp)

11 x 11 x 10h cm
4,3 x 4,3 x 3,9h in

Provenance

Private collection

Literature

Giuliana Gramigna, Repertorio del design italiano
1950–2000 per l'arredamento domestico, Allemandi,
2003

Biography

Joe Colombo (1930–1971) saw himself as a "creator of the environment of the future." During the forward-looking 1960s—against the backdrop of the space race, technological optimism, and the rise of Pop Art—the Italian industrial designer sought to create innovative design solutions through the use of new materials and curvaceous, functional forms. He used his family's factory as a laboratory to conduct experiments with cutting-edge plastics such as fiberglass, ABS, PVC, and polyethylene, aiming to create affordable and versatile furniture for mass production. In addition to exploring new materials, Colombo was also deeply interested in ideas of flexibility, adaptability, and self-assembly. He developed modular tube furniture systems that could be easily arranged and reconfigured according to the users' needs and personal preferences, reflecting his vision of dynamic living spaces tailored to modern lifestyles. Colombo's work anticipated many of the ideas about modularity and user interaction that are still highly relevant in contemporary design.