

SIDE GALLERY

JOSÉ ZANINE CALDAS



Armchair

Designed by José Zanine Caldas
Brazil, 1978
Pequi wood

Measurements

78 cm x 60h cm
30,7 in x 23,6h in

Provenance

Private collection, Brazil

Edition

Unique piece

Certificate

Accompanied by a certificate of authenticity by Zanine Caldas family as well as a certificate of provenance

About

This sculptural armchair by José Zanine Caldas was carved from a single block of wood during his most radical period of production in the late 1970s. Its organic, expressive form and strong volume reflect Caldas' engagement with vernacular craftsmanship and Brazil's natural resources. The chair's almost totemic presence, with its asymmetrical silhouette and hand-carved surfaces, exemplifies the designer's commitment to honoring the raw material while asserting a bold modernist language.

Created in Nova Viçosa, Bahia, this work resonates with Caldas' philosophy of environmental awareness and social responsibility. The use of salvaged wood and the clear marks of manual labor contribute to its authenticity as a piece that bridges sculpture, utility, and cultural memory.

Biography

José Zanine Caldas (1918–2001) was a self-taught Brazilian architect and designer known for his innovative use of native woods and his integration of craftsmanship and environmental values. Starting as a model maker in the 1940s, he collaborated with leading modernist architects and founded *Móveis Artísticos Z* to produce industrial furniture using plywood. Later, he embraced a more rustic and ecological approach, creating expressive wooden houses and furniture using reclaimed materials. His work bridges industrial design and vernacular tradition, leaving a legacy of sustainability and regional identity. In 1991, he was named an honorary architect by the Institute of Architects of Brazil.