

SIDE GALLERY

KATSUO MATSUMURA



Side Table model "Sala"

Manufactured by Tendo Mokko
Japan, ca. 1970s

Oak laminated plywood (Nara laminated plywood)

Measurements

55 cm × 55 cm × 40h cm
21,7 in × 21,7 in × 15,7h in

Provenance

Private Collection, Japan

Details

Attributed to Katsuo Matsumura and produced by Tendo Mokko in the 1970s. The model commonly listed in vintage Japanese sales as “Sala” side table—appears to be a discontinued item not present in current Tendo catalogs. Characteristic features include a single-slab-appearance top in laminated oak plywood and elegantly formed three-dimensional molded plywood legs; a narrow spacer between the top and the leg junction produces a subtle “floating” effect. The example shows wear consistent with vintage use (light stains, small chips to veneer) and has been lightly cleaned for sale.

Biography

Katsuo Matsumura (1914–2005) was a Japanese furniture designer known for his dedication to practical, affordable design. Trained in woodcraft at the Tokyo Prefectural Craftwork School and later at the Industrial Art Training School, he gained early experience working with architect Junzo Yoshimura. After serving in the war, he joined Yoshimura's newly founded architecture office, where his talent quickly stood out among leading designers of his generation.

Matsumura became recognized for pieces such as the Gama (Sedge) Chair and the dining chair T-0635B, which reflected his belief that Japanese furniture should be compact, lightweight, and accessible. Although briefly involved in the design collective Q-Designers, he soon chose to work independently, focusing on low-cost furniture that could be mass-produced without sacrificing quality.

Throughout his career, he collaborated with prominent architects and designers—including Jun Masuzawa—and contributed to influential interior projects such as Shinjuku Fugetsudo. Inspired early on by Charlotte Perriand's visit to Japan, Matsumura embraced a design ethos rooted in simplicity, functionality, and everyday usability. His work remains appreciated for its modest elegance and practicality.