

SIDE GALLERY

KATSUO MATSUMURA



Pair of “Pesca” Chairs

Manufactured by Tendo Mokko
Japan, c.1980s
Molded plywood, vinyl leather upholstery

Measurements (each)

40 × 50 × 76h cm (Seat height 42 cm)
15,7 × 19,7 × 29,9h in (Seat height 16,5 in)

Provenance

Private collection, Japan

Literature

Japanese Chairs. The chair and Designers of the
Modern Classic by Shimazaki Makoto. Japan 2005.
Page 94, 104, 105

Tendo. Eight decades of masterful designs from
leading Japanese furniture maker Tendo Mokko.
Published by Tendo Mokko. Japan, 2020. Pages 245

Details

Designed by Katsuo Matsumura in 1982, the Pesca chair represents one of Tendo Mokko's most enduring designs and remains in production today with virtually no alteration. Conceived during Japan's economic boom of the early 1980s, the model was marketed toward the emerging “new family” generation seeking practical, well-crafted furniture at accessible prices.

Constructed entirely from three molded plywood components—front and rear leg structure, seat, and curved backrest—the Pesca demonstrates the designer's mastery of Tendo's advanced bentwood techniques. The backrest's triple curvature provides flexibility and ergonomic support, while the minimal assembly emphasizes the sculptural continuity of the form.

This vintage pair, likely from early production, displays age-related wear and surface scratches consistent with use, yet retains the original vinyl leather upholstery in deep green, intact and firmly adhered. The combination of dark wood tone and subtle retro palette evokes the refined domestic modernism of the Shōwa period.

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.