

# SIDE GALLERY

RIKI WATANABE



## Stool

Manufactured by Yamakawa Rattan edition  
Japan, c. 1960s  
Rattan

## Measurements

30 × 33 × 42hcm  
11,8 × 13 × 16,5h in

## Provenance

Private collection, Tokyo

## Literature

Riki Watanabe. Innovating in Modern Living, National  
Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, 2006

## Details

Manufacturer's label from Yamakawa Rattan edition

## Notes

This stool, designed by Riki Watanabe in the 1960s, showcases his skill in combining traditional Japanese materials with modern design sensibilities. Made entirely of rattan, the piece demonstrates lightweight construction, natural textures, and functional simplicity. Watanabe, a leading figure in postwar Japanese design, explored the use of organic materials in everyday furniture, bridging artisanal craftsmanship with modernist principles.

## Biography

**Riki Watanabe** (1911–2013) was one of Japan's pioneering modern designers, known for bridging traditional craftsmanship with the emerging ideals of postwar modernism. Trained in woodworking and architecture, he established his studio in the late 1940s and became instrumental in shaping Japan's design identity through furniture, interior projects, and industrial design. Watanabe's work embodies a restrained elegance — combining natural materials, rational forms, and a profound respect for everyday use. Through collaborations with manufacturers such as Tendo Mokko and with leading architects of his generation, he helped define the humanist approach that came to characterize Japanese modern design.