

SIDE GALLERY

KATSUO MATSUMURA



Armchair

Manufactured by Tendo Mokko
Japan, 1970s

Molded wood/solid hardwood frame, Fabric upholstery

Measurements

64,3 × 68 × 67,5h cm
25,3 × 26,8 × 26,6h in

Provenance

Private Collection, Japan

Details

This armchair exemplifies Katsuo Matsumura's mastery in balancing sculptural form, comfort, and understated elegance. Its low, gently reclined profile, wide arms, and solid frame offer both visual presence and ergonomic support. Originally designed with a protective cover, the piece shows minor sun fading on one side along with typical vintage signs of wear, patina, and small scratches, attesting to its authenticity and age.

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.