

SIDE GALLERY

RIKI WATANABE



Flip Clock Model Copal Caslon 201

Design by Riki Watanabe

Manufactured by Copal Co., Ltd.

Japan, 1967

ABS plastic housing, Metal, Electric flip mechanism

Measurements

24 × 10 × 9h cm

9,4 × 3,9 × 3,5h in

Details

Manufacturer's label

Provenance

Private collection, Japan

Literature

Copal Co., Ltd. (1967). Copal Electric Clocks Catalogue.

Tokyo: Copal Co., Ltd.

Watanabe, R. (2011). Riki Watanabe: Design. Tokyo: ADP
(Art Design Publishing).

Notes

The Caslon 201 is widely regarded as one of the most refined Japanese flip clocks of the 1960s, combining functional clarity with sculptural restraint. Its rotating numeral system offers silent, continuous time display, while the compact rectangular form reflects Watanabe's interest in architecture, typography, and everyday objects. The model has become a reference point in mid-century Japanese industrial design and is sought after by collectors of modern clocks.

Biography

Riki Watanabe (1911–2013) was a central figure in the development of modern Japanese design. Active from the prewar period through the late 20th century, he played a pivotal role in shaping Japan's postwar design identity, balancing international modernism with indigenous materials and techniques. A founding member of the Japan Industrial Designers' Association, Watanabe was deeply involved in design education and institutional development. His achievements were recognized with numerous awards, including the Milan Triennale Gold Medal, the Mainichi Design Award, and the Japanese Medal of Honor with Purple Ribbon.