

SIDE GALLERY

TENDO MOKKO



Stool Model "Marimo"

Manufactured by Tendo Mokko
Japan, 1950s
Plastic × Styrol

Measurements

56 × 56 × 40h cm
22 × 22 × 15,7h in

Provenance

Private collection, Japan

Literature

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

Details

Manufacturer's Label

About

This rare Marimo stool by Tendo Mokko represents an early collaboration among iconic designers of postwar Japan, including Kenzo Tange, Isamu Kenmochi, and Sori Yanagi. Produced in molded plastic and styrol, the piece reflects the company's experimentation with modern materials and sculptural, functional forms. Its rounded, minimalist aesthetic embodies Tendo Mokko's philosophy of integrating traditional Japanese sensibilities with contemporary design techniques. The stool is versatile and robust, suitable for both seating and decorative purposes, and remains a highly collectible example of early Japanese postwar furniture design.

About Tendo Mokko

In northwest Japan, in Yamagata Prefecture, a group of carpenters and joiners created a cooperative that primarily produced wooden objects, ammunition and supply crates for the army. Incorporated in 1942, the cooperative worked with the Sendai Institute of Industrial Arts and used the new molded plywood technology to make decoy aircraft. After the war, Tendo opened an office in Tokyo (1947). It produced furniture for the occupying troops, then turned, in the early 1950s, to furniture for the domestic market. One of his first commissions came from the architect Kenzo Tange, who designed plywood seats for the Ehime Prefecture, built in 1953. Plywood was then a new material for designers, and Tendo was one of the first manufacturers to use it for its furniture, notably for the Butterfly stool, created in 1956 by Sori Yanagi. Tendo's policy of paying royalties for design projects attracted many other designers, so much so that, in the sixties, Tendo could boast among its ranks the leading furniture designers Isamu Kenmochi, Daisaku Choh, Riki Watanabe, whose creations are still produced. In addition, Tendo encouraged young designers by funding an annual competition from 1960 to 1967 and by manufacturing some of the winning designs itself, such as Reiko Tanabe's plywood chair. In 1964, Tendo received the Mainichi Prize for Industrial Design for its pivotal role in furniture manufacturing.