

SIDE GALLERY

KATSUO MATSUMURA



Set of Lounge Chairs Model QA-100

Manufactured by Yamakawa Rattan
Japan, circa 1960s
Rattan

Measurements (each)

61 × 71 × 75h cm
24 × 28 × 29,5h in

Provenance

Private collection, Japan

Details

Manufacturer's label

Literature

Yamakawa Rattan catalogues (1960s)

About

The QA-100 lounge chairs, designed by Katsuo Matsumura, exemplify the balance between simplicity of form and technical mastery that characterizes postwar Japanese rattan furniture. Produced by Yamakawa Rattan, the chairs combine a graceful, understated silhouette with the exceptional craftsmanship for which the manufacturer is renowned.

The design reflects careful consideration of the Japanese domestic environment. Scaled to suit the proportions of the Japanese body and the spatial constraints of modern Japanese homes, the chairs are both compact and generously comfortable. The lightweight quality of rattan, used here with structural precision and rhythmic weaving, enhances their adaptability and ease of movement within interior spaces.

Matsumura's approach avoids unnecessary ornamentation, allowing the material itself to articulate the form. The continuous curvature of the frame and the finely tensioned woven surfaces demonstrate Yamakawa's advanced bending and weaving techniques, which enabled organic forms to be produced with structural clarity and artisanal integrity.

Biography

Katsuo Matsumura (1914–2005) was a Japanese furniture designer known for his contribution to affordable, functional design. He studied woodcraft at the Tokyo Prefectural Craftwork School and later at the Tokyo Art School, while gaining early professional experience in the studio of Junzō Yoshimura.

After serving in World War II, he joined the Yoshimura Architecture Office, where his talent quickly gained recognition alongside other designers of his generation. He later became independent, focusing on developing low-cost, durable furniture suited to the compact living conditions of postwar Japan.

Matsumura's work is characterized by simplicity, lightness, and long-lasting usability rather than stylistic trends. Among his most notable designs are the Gama (Sedge) Chair and the dining chair T-0635B, which exemplify his commitment to functional, accessible design without compromising quality.