

SIDE GALLERY

JOSÉ ZANINE CALDAS



Chaise Longue

Manufactured by Móveis Artísticos Z
Brazil, 1950s
Solid wood, cotton cord

Measurements

58 × 162 × 70h cm
22,8 × 63,8 × 27,6h in

Provenance

Private Collection, Brazil

About

Constructed in solid wood, the structure is defined by its robust yet expressive geometry, emphasizing the natural qualities of the material.

The seating surface is formed by a network of cotton cords, creating a suspended support system that adapts to the body. This use of cordage introduces both flexibility and visual lightness, establishing a dynamic contrast with the solidity of the wooden frame. The interplay between tension and structure is central to the design, allowing comfort to emerge through material behavior rather than added upholstery.

The chaise longue embodies a balance between functionality and sculptural presence, illustrating a moment in which Brazilian design explored the expressive potential of natural materials through simple yet highly effective construction systems.

Biography

José Zanine Caldas (1918–2001) was a self-taught Brazilian architect and designer known for his innovative use of native woods and his integration of craftsmanship and environmental values. Starting as a model maker in the 1940s, he collaborated with leading modernist architects and founded Móveis Artísticos Z to produce industrial furniture using plywood. Later, he embraced a more rustic and ecological approach, creating expressive wooden houses and furniture using reclaimed materials. His work bridges industrial design and vernacular tradition, leaving a legacy of sustainability and regional identity. In 1991, he was named an honorary architect by the Institute of Architects of Brazil.