

SIDE GALLERY

LINA BO BARDI



Chair model "Bowl" (Two Available)
Manufactured by Studio de Arte Palma
Brazil, 1951
Painted steel, upholstered fabric, foam

Measurements
84 cm diameter × 55h cm
33,1 in diameter × 21,6h in

Provenance
Private Collection, Brazil

Exhibited

Making Space: Women Artists and Postwar Abstraction,
Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, 2017.
Crafting Modernity: Design in Latin America,
1940–1980, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New
York, 2024.

Literature

Zeuler R. M. A. Lima, Lina Bo Bardi, Yale University
Press, New Haven, 2013.
Instituto Lina Bo e P. M. Bardi, Lina Bo Bardi, São
Paulo, various editions.
Juliet Kinchin and Aidan O'Connor (eds.), Crafting
Modernity: Design in Latin America, 1940–1980, The
Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2024.
Marcelo Ferraz (ed.), Lina Bo Bardi, Instituto Lina Bo e
P. M. Bardi, São Paulo, 1993.

Biography

Lina Bo Bardi (1914–1992) was an Italian-born Brazilian architect, designer, and intellectual whose work redefined modern architecture through its strong social and cultural engagement. After graduating from the University of Rome in 1939, she worked in Milan with Gio Ponti and served as deputy director of Domus magazine between 1944 and 1945. Following her move to Brazil in 1946, she played a key role in the development of the São Paulo Museum of Art (MASP), designing its original interiors and later its iconic glass-and-concrete headquarters on Paulista Avenue. In 1950, she co-founded the influential magazine Habitat and, in 1951, established Brazil's first industrial design course. That same year, she designed the Casa de Vidro (Glass House) and created her most celebrated furniture piece, the Bardi's Bowl Chair. During her years in Salvador de Bahia, she directed the Museum of Modern Art of Bahia and led important restoration projects that reinforced her commitment to local culture and craftsmanship. Among her most significant works is SESC Pompéia (1977–1986), a former factory transformed into a vibrant cultural and leisure center. Throughout her career, Bo Bardi championed a socially responsible approach to architecture, which she described as "Arquitetura Povera," emphasizing simplicity, local materials, and the adaptive reuse of existing structures. Today, she is regarded as one of the most influential architects and designers of the twentieth century, celebrated for her ability to merge modernism with Brazil's popular traditions and everyday life.