# SIDE GALLERY

## GEORGE NAKASHIMA



Bench Model “R-086319 Conoid”
Manufactured by Sakura Seisakusho
Kagawa, Japan 1980s
Solid walnut

Measurements
200 × 45 × 43h cm
78,7 × 17,7 × 16,9h in

Details
Conoid design; solid wood construction with natural edge; signed by George Nakashima on underside

Literature
Nakashima, G. (1990). George Nakashima Woodworker: New Hope, Pennsylvania (Studio catalog, ca. 1990). New Hope, PA: George Nakashima Woodworkers.
Nakashima, G. (2003). Nature, Form & Spirit: The Life and Legacy of George Nakashima. New York, NY: Abrams.

Provenance
Private Collection, Japan

About
The Conoid Bench exemplifies George Nakashima’s philosophy of allowing the natural character of wood to guide furniture design. Its sculptural seat preserves the timber’s organic contours, grain and tonal variations, while the slender spindle back creates a balance between visual lightness and structural solidity. Combining traditional woodworking craftsmanship with architectural clarity, the bench transcends its functional purpose, embodying Nakashima’s distinctive dialogue between nature, modern design and sculpture.

Biography
George Nakashima (1905–1990) was an influential woodworker and furniture designer known for his philosophical approach to craftsmanship and natural materials. Born in Washington to Japanese immigrant parents, he studied architecture before travelling through Europe and Asia. During the 1930s, he worked in Japan with architect Antonin Raymond, where he developed a deep understanding of Japanese architecture and traditional woodworking techniques.
After returning to the United States, Nakashima established his workshop in New Hope, Pennsylvania, developing a distinctive style characterized by solid wood construction, exposed joinery and the preservation of natural grain and edges. His work combined modernist principles with traditional craftsmanship, emphasizing the inherent beauty of wood. Through international collaborations, including projects in India, he extended his design philosophy across cultural contexts. Today, his work is celebrated for its synthesis of modern design, artisanal skill and respect for nature.

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