SIDE GALLERY

GEORGE NAKASHIMA



Lounge Chair Model “Conoid”
Manufactured by Sakura Seisakusho
USA, 1987
Walnut

Measurements
56 × 58 × 84h cm
22 × 23 × 33¼h in

Details
Signed and dated to the underside “Studio George Nakashima April 1987”.
Accompanied by a digital copy of the original receipt.

Literature
George Nakashima Woodworkers: Process Book, Nakashima, ppg. 36-37, 74 (for similar work)
George Nakashima Woodworkers, studio catalog, pg. 8

Provenance
Private Collection, Japan

About
The Conoid Lounge Chair exemplifies George Nakashima’s approach to furniture design, combining sculptural form, structural clarity and respect for the natural qualities of wood. Crafted in 1987 at Nakashima Studio in Pennsylvania, it combines American black walnut and hickory, highlighting the expressive grain and individual character of each material. Its refined proportions and carefully shaped components reflect the balance between traditional craftsmanship and modernist principles that defined Nakashima’s work. Signed and dated April 1987, this example was acquired directly from the artist and belonged to the collection of Drs. Julian and Sheila Katz, reinforcing its documented provenance.

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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