SIDE GALLERY

ISAMU KENMOCHI



Pair of Armchairs
Manufactured by Akita Mokko
Japan, 1970s
Bentwood, upholstered fabric

Measurements
62,5 × 56 × 68h cm (41 cm seat height)
24,6 × 22 × 26,8 h in (16,1 in seat height)

Provenance
Hokkaido Hotel
Private collection, Tokyo

Literature
Kenmochi Isamu: Japanese Modern.
Retrospective, 2004

Details
Stamped with manufacturer's label

About
Designed in the 1970s for **Akita Mokko**, this pair of armchairs reflects Kenmochi's later, more fluid approach to modern seating. The bentwood structure softens the strict geometries of his earlier work, allowing the form to respond more organically to the body.
Akita Mokko, renowned for its bentwood craftsmanship, provided the technical foundation for this design, enabling Kenmochi to explore continuity of line and structural lightness while maintaining durability and comfort. These chairs represent the mature phase of Kenmochi's modernist vocabulary.

Biography
Isamu Kenmochi (1912–1971) was a pioneering Japanese industrial and interior designer whose work played a central role in shaping postwar Japanese modernism. He joined the Industrial Arts Research Institute in 1932, where he explored the relationship between traditional craftsmanship, modern materials, and industrial manufacturing.
In 1955, he established Kenmochi Design Associates, developing furniture and interiors for residential, commercial, and institutional projects. His collaborations with manufacturers such as Tendo Mokko resulted in designs that combined ergonomic comfort, structural precision, and an understated modern aesthetic.
Throughout his career, Kenmochi sought to establish a distinctive Japanese design identity, integrating international modernist principles with the country's material traditions and craftsmanship. His work remains an important contribution to the development of modern furniture and interior design in twentieth-century Japan.

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