SIDE GALLERY

ISAMU KENMOCHI



Rattan armchair model “C-315-S”
Manufactured by Yamakawa Rattan
Japan, 1961
Rattan, fabric

Measurements
68,5 x 82,5 x 79,5h in
27 x 32,5 x 31,3h in

Provenance
Private collection, Tokyo

Literature
Design: Isamu Noguchi and Isamu Kenmochi, Rychlak et al., ppg. 20, 116-119
Japanese Wooden Chairs, published by Shotenkenchiku-Sha, Tokyo, 1995. Page 68
Japanese Modern. Retrospective Isamu Kenmochi. Published by Asao Sato. Hitoshi Mori (Matsudo City Board of Education), Tokyo 2005. Cover and pages 85, 186, 93, 92, 91,
Design Japonais 1950-1995. Editions Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, 1996. Page 69

Details
Manufacturer’s label to underside ‘Yamakawa Tokyo, Japan’.

About
Designed for a hotel lounge, this chair is regarded as one of masterpieces of Isamu Kenmochi. Choosing rattan as a flexible material to make any form, he completed this chair as a voluminous and beautifully curved one expressing modernized Japanese style. Selected as a permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, recommended by the Marcel Breuer in 1964. Also recognized as G mark design furniture.

Biography
Isamu Kenmochi (1912–1971) was a pioneering Japanese designer who helped shape postwar Japanese modernism. He combined traditional craftsmanship with modern materials and industrial production, drawing inspiration from both Japanese artisanal techniques and international design. In 1955, he founded Kenmochi Design Associates, developing furniture that balanced organic forms, functionality and modern manufacturing. His work on the Japanese Pavilion at Expo 58 in Brussels established his international recognition, while his later teaching at Tama Art University influenced a new generation of designers.

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