

SIDE GALLERY

JOSÉ ZANINE CALDAS



Console

From series "Móveis Denúncia"
Manufactured by José Zanine Caldas
Brazil, 1970s
Pequi wood

Measurements

110 × 38 × 78h cm
43,3 × 15 × 30,7h in

Provenance

Private Collection, Brazil

Edition

Unique Piece

Certificate

Accompanied by a certificate of authenticity
by the Zanine Caldas family as well as
a certificate of provenance

About

This sculptural console by José Zanine Caldas belongs to his celebrated Móveis Denúncia series, developed during the 1970s as an expression of his increasingly direct and environmentally conscious approach to furniture making. Working with massive sections of Brazilian hardwood, Zanine allowed the intrinsic qualities of the timber to determine the form of each individual piece.

The console is constructed from substantial carved elements, with a thick, irregular top resting upon a monumental sculpted base. A large opening pierced through the support reduces its visual weight while emphasizing the organic character of the composition. Tool marks, variations in the grain, and irregularities of the wood remain deliberately visible, recording the process through which the material was shaped.

The Móveis Denúncia series emerged from Zanine's growing concern with the destruction of Brazil's forests. Rather than concealing the scale and physicality of timber, these works drew attention to it, frequently making use of large sections of wood that revealed the age, grain, and natural morphology of the tree. The furniture thus became both functional and expressive, communicating Zanine's ecological concerns through the material itself.

Created during his mature period, the console embodies the close relationship between sculpture, furniture, and architecture that defined Zanine's practice. Its singular construction and hand-carved character make it a unique work, reflecting his vision of furniture as an immediate dialogue between craftsman and material.

Biography

José Zanine Caldas (1918–2001) was a self-taught Brazilian architect and designer known for his innovative use of native woods and his integration of craftsmanship and environmental values. Starting as a model maker in the 1940s, he collaborated with leading modernist architects and founded Móveis Artísticos Z to produce industrial furniture using plywood. Later, he embraced a more rustic and ecological approach, creating expressive wooden houses and furniture using reclaimed materials. His work bridges industrial design and vernacular tradition, leaving a legacy of sustainability and regional identity. In 1991, he was named an honorary architect by the Institute of Architects of Brazil.