SIDE GALLERY

KATSUO MATSUMURA



Pair of armchairs
Manufactured by Tendo Mokko
Japan, 1960s
Oak, bentwood, upholstered cushions and textile webbing

Measurements (each)
53 × 70 × 64h cm (Seat 32h cm)
20,9 × 27,6 × 25,2h in (Seat 12,6h in)

Provenance
Private collection, Japan

Literature
Makoto Shimazaki, Japanese Chairs: The Chair and Designers of the Modern Classic, Japan, 2005, pp. 95, 102–103.
Tendo Mokko, Eight Decades of Masterful Designs from Leading Japanese Furniture Maker Tendo Mokko, Japan, 2020, p. 244.

About
The Three-Seater Modular Bench, attributed to Katsuo Matsumura and manufactured by Tendo Mokko during the 1960s, reflects the principles of postwar Japanese modern furniture design. Composed of three individual modules, it combines curved bentwood frames, upholstered cushions and black-and-white textile webbing integrated into the backrests. The contrast between the warm wood, flexible supports and soft upholstery creates a balance of structural clarity and comfort. Its modular configuration and refined construction highlight Tendo Mokko's expertise in woodworking and the period's interest in adaptable, functional furniture.

Biography
Katsuo Matsumura (1923–1991) was a Japanese furniture and interior designer born in Tokyo. After graduating from the Tokyo School of Fine Arts in 1944, he worked with architect Junzo Yoshimura before establishing his own design practice in 1958. His work focused on functional, carefully constructed furniture, exploring materials such as bentwood, moulded plywood and metal. Among his best-known designs is the Gama Chair (1972), reflecting his interest in combining simplicity, practicality and craftsmanship.

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