SIDE GALLERY

SABURO INUI



Leather Armchair
Manufactured by Tendo Mokko
Japan, 1970s
Leather and metal

Measurements
74 × 63 × 68h cm
29,1 × 24,8 × 26,8h in
Seat Height: 35,5h cm - 14h in

Provenance
Private collection, Japan

Literature
Tendo Mokko Co., Ltd., historical product catalogues and company archives, Yamagata, Japan. (For similar example).

About
This Pair of Leather Armchairs, attributed to Saburo Inui and dating from approximately 1970, reflects the principles of postwar Japanese modern furniture. The design combines dark leather upholstery with a slender tubular metal frame, balancing comfort with structural simplicity. Its continuous, gently curved backrest and integrated armrests create an enveloping form, while the restrained proportions emphasize ergonomic functionality and visual clarity. The contrast between soft upholstery and metal structure illustrates the dialogue between Japanese modernism and international furniture design.

About Tendo Mokko
Founded in Yamagata in 1942, **Tendo Mokko** became a leading Japanese furniture manufacturer through its pioneering use of molded plywood. From the 1950s onwards, the company collaborated with influential architects and designers, including Kenzo Tange, Sori Yanagi, Isamu Kenmochi and Riki Watanabe, exploring new possibilities in modern furniture design. Awarded the Mainichi Industrial Design Award in 1964, Tendo Mokko helped shape Japanese modernism by combining technological innovation with traditional woodworking craftsmanship.

Biography
Saburo Inui (1920–1982) was a Japanese designer and architect who contributed to the development of postwar Japanese modern furniture by combining traditional craftsmanship with industrial materials. Best known for the Ply Chair, designed in 1959 and manufactured by Tendo Mokko, he explored the possibilities of molded plywood and innovative materials, including a rare transparent acrylic version produced in 1970. His collaborations with Tendo Mokko helped shape a refined approach to furniture design, balancing technical innovation, functionality and simplicity.

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