CARLO HAUNER & MARTIN EISLER



Armchair
Manufactured by Forma Móveis Brasil
Brazil, 1950s
Iron, wood, fabric

Measurements
90 x 83 x 95h cm
35,4 x 32,7 x 37,4h in

Provenance
Private Collection, São Paulo, Brazil

Literature
Alberto Vicente and Marcelo Vasconcellos (eds.),
Móvel Moderno Brasileiro,
Olhares, São Paulo, 2017.

Biography
Martin Eisler (1913–1977) and **Carlo Hauner** (1927–1996) were pioneering figures in the development of modern Brazilian furniture design. Their collaboration brought together European modernist principles and the distinctive materials, craftsmanship, and cultural context of mid-century Brazil. Born in Vienna, Eisler studied architecture before leaving Europe in 1938 due to the rise of Nazism. He settled in Buenos Aires, where he worked as an architect, set designer, and interior designer and founded the interior design company Interieur Forma. During the early 1950s, his professional activity increasingly brought him to Brazil, then undergoing a period of intense architectural and cultural transformation. Hauner was born in Brescia, Italy, and studied drawing and design at the Brera Academy in Milan. After participating in the 1948 Venice Biennale, he moved to Brazil, where he explored painting, textiles, ceramics, architecture, and furniture design. In São Paulo, he established the furniture company Móveis Artesanal, producing modern furnishings for the emerging Brazilian architectural scene. Hauner and Eisler began collaborating in 1953, subsequently developing Móveis Artesanal into Forma, one of the most influential furniture manufacturers in Brazil. Their designs combined slender tubular metal structures, Brazilian hardwoods, expressive upholstery, and fluid organic forms, achieving a balance between visual lightness, structural clarity, and comfort.
Although their direct collaboration was relatively brief, their work played a decisive role in establishing the identity of Brazilian modern furniture. Hauner later returned to Italy and founded Forma di Brescia, while Eisler continued to direct Forma in São Paulo until his death in 1977. Their furniture remains internationally recognised for its refined proportions, technical innovation, and distinctive synthesis of European modernism and Brazilian material culture.

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