SIDE GALLERY

CARLO HAUNER & MARTIN EISLER



High back Armchair
Manufactured by Forma Móveis
Brazil, 1955
Iron structure, brass, fabric upholstery

Measurements
60 × 70 × 100h cm
23,6 × 27,6 × 39,4h in

Provenance
Private Collection, São Paulo, Brazil

About
Designed in 1955, this high back armchair reflects **Carlo Hauner** and **Martin Eisler**'s exploration of visually light metal structures combined with generous upholstered volumes. Its slender black-painted iron frame is reinforced by geometric crossbars and finished with small brass feet, creating a precise structural counterpoint to the softness of the seat. The chair is distinguished by its tall, gently curved backrest and projecting upholstered wings, which partially envelop the head and upper body. Broad lateral panels form the armrests, while contrasting upholstered pads provide an additional tactile and chromatic detail. Despite its substantial proportions, the open metal base gives the piece a sense of lightness and suspension. Balancing sculptural presence with ergonomic comfort, the armchair exemplifies the synthesis of European modernist principles, industrial production, and Brazilian material sensibility that characterised the furniture developed by Hauner and Eisler for Forma during the 1950s.

Biography
Martin Eisler (Vienna, Austria, 1913 – São Paulo, Brazil, 1977) was an architect and furniture designer who emigrated from Europe in 1938, first settling in Argentina, where he worked in architecture, set design and interior design, before moving to Brazil. In 1953, he met Italian designer **Carlo Hauner** (1927–1996), who had established Móveis Artesanal in São Paulo. Their partnership led to the development of the company, later renamed Forma, which became one of Brazil's leading furniture manufacturers. Together, they played an important role in Brazilian modernist design during the 1950s and 1960s, creating furniture, ceramics and textiles characterized by the use of Brazilian woods, slender tubular metal structures and innovative forms. Their work also helped introduce major international designers to the Brazilian market through Forma's exclusive distribution of Knoll furniture.

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