SIDE GALLERY

GEORGE NAKASHIMA



Sofa
Manufactured by Nakashima Studio
USA, 1960s
American black walnut, fabric upholstery

Measurements
122 × 89 × 77,5h cm
48 × 35 × 30,5h in
Seat height: 42 cm / 16,5 in

Provenance
Private Collection, Japan

Literature
George Nakashima, The Soul of a Tree: A Woodworker's Reflections, Kodansha, New York, 1981.
Mira Nakashima, Nature, Form & Spirit: The Life and Legacy of George Nakashima, Abrams, New York, 2003.

About
George Nakashima's seating designs embody his distinctive approach to furniture making, combining traditional woodworking techniques with a profound appreciation for the natural qualities of wood. Characterized by carefully considered proportions, solid walnut construction, and upholstered seating, his furniture balances structural clarity with comfort and craftsmanship. The expressive grain of American black walnut becomes an essential element of the design, highlighting the individuality of the material.
Produced by Nakashima Studio in the United States, this piece reflects the designer's commitment to creating furniture that transcends purely functional considerations, establishing a dialogue between natural materials, craftsmanship, and modern design.

Biography
George Nakashima (1905–1990) was an influential woodworker and furniture designer known for his philosophical approach to craftsmanship and natural materials. Born in Washington to Japanese immigrant parents, he studied architecture before travelling through Europe and Asia. During the 1930s, he worked in Japan with architect Antonin Raymond, where he developed a deep understanding of Japanese architecture and traditional woodworking techniques.
After returning to the United States, Nakashima established his workshop in New Hope, Pennsylvania, developing a distinctive style characterized by solid wood construction, exposed joinery and the preservation of natural grain and edges. His work combined modernist principles with traditional craftsmanship, emphasizing the inherent beauty of wood. Through international collaborations, including projects in India, he extended his design philosophy across cultural contexts. Today, his work is celebrated for its synthesis of modern design, artisanal skill and respect for nature.

109 Carrer Lull
08005 Barcelona
+34 931 522 550
+34 658 421 720
info@side-gallery.com
www.side-gallery.com