

PIASA

SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

George Nakashima (1905-1990)

A thematic auction dedicated to
a dean of American Craft

Exhibition designed by Chahan Minassian

VIEWING

September 11-16, 2015

PIASA

118 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré
75008 Paris - France

PIASA EDITIONS

George Nakashima, Back in Paris
September 2015

PRESS & COMMUNICATION

Cécile Demtchenko Woringer
T +33 1 53 34 12 95 - M +33 6 22 16 85 96
c.demtchenko@piasa.fr

Press Release



PIASA

Nearly 65 works by American designer George Nakashima, including about 20 items made by Nakashima Studio under the supervision of his daughter Mira, have been selected by PIASA to form an exclusive, monographic sale, on the occasion of their next *Scandinavian v. Brazilian Design* auction in Paris on 16 September 2015. The sale is something of a return to base for Nakashima, who studied in France as a young man, and reveals the tremendous diversity and originality of his work.



The important ensemble showcases some of George Nakashima's most outstanding designs, many in walnut. Highlights include a unique chest-of-drawers from 1963 (est. €30,000-40,000), a bench from 1975 imbued with the refinement so typical of Nakashima's work (est. €20,000-30,000), or also the coffee table *Double Minguren I* dated 1970 (est. €30,000-40,000). Connoisseurs will also be enthralled by a long chair dated 1947 (est. €60,000-80,000) that bears witness to the inspiration Nakashima derived from the pure forms of European Modernism.

George Nakashima was born in the United States in 1905. After graduating in Architecture at the University of Washington in 1929, he studied at the Ecole Américaine des Beaux-Arts in Fontainebleau and in Paris he discovered the work in progress of Le Corbusier, which made a deep impression on him.

Nakashima's own designs are impregnated with the spirit of his many trips around Europe, and to India and Japan, where he worked as an architect. During World War II (1942/3), because of his Japanese origins, he was interned in a camp in Idaho, where he learned traditional Japanese carpentry. His former employer, the architect Raymond Antonin sponsored his release and invited him to live on his farm in New Hope, Pennsylvania, where Nakashima began to produce many of his most important designs.

PIASA

‘Giving Wood A Second Life’

The rough yet noble material of wood swiftly became his favourite. Nakashima aimed for his designs to ‘give wood a second life.’ His dialogue with trees offers us the opportunity to communicate directly with nature.

Aided by a small team of assistants, George Nakashima transformed fitch-cut wood into works of art. In the beginning, his output was limited to a few copies of each design, and he worked personally on all of them. He loved to mix traditional Japanese carpentry techniques with wood in its natural state. The great harmony of his furniture derives from the alliance between refined design and the natural forms of wood, as he sought to elevate the natural with elegance.

By blending Oriental *savoir-faire* with sober aesthetics, natural materials and exquisite craftsmanship, George Nakashima left his unique mark on the world of Design. The many awards he received include the *Gold Medal For Craftsmanship* from the American Institute of Architects, and the *Third Order of the Sacred Treasure* from the Japanese government and Emperor of Japan. His work can be found in major collections around the world, among them the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, London’s Victoria & Albert Museum and the National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo.

PIASA



George Nakashima (1905-1990)
Long chair, 1947
Walnut and textile
€60,000-80,000

PIASA



George Nakashima (1905-1990)

Chest of drawers, 1963

American walnut

H 32 x L 95 x W 21 in

€30,000- 40,000

PIASA



George Nakashima (1905-1990)
Rocking chair, 1978
American walnut
H 34,6 x L 33,8 x W 29 in
€10,000-15,000

PIASA



George Nakashima (1905-1990)

Free-edge, around 1969

Sideboard

Walnut and textile

H 31,8 x L 71 x W 22,8 in

€20,000-30,000

PIASA

An exhibition designed by Chahan Minassian

© Credit Milan Vukmirovic



Chahan Minassian can be defined as an « eye ».

His sharp eye, precise, selective, refined – he puts it to the profit of all his activities : interior design, decorator, collector, galerist, antique dealer, designer.

With his armenian origins, born in lebanon, he arrived in france in 1976 always keeping an international life style.

Indeed, after his interior design studies in paris, his first job as european creative director of the prestigious fashion house « ralph lauren » during 7 years gives the rhythm of his projects and his international travels.

In 1993, Chahan creates « Chahan interior design » and very quickly his projects multiply, in canada, europe and japan. Commercial spaces for luxury brands develop and gradually very high standing residences take off all around the world.

In 1999, Chahan interior design settles in a confidential showroom located at 12 rue de beaune to welcome his clients.

This space allows him to develop his interiors and atmospheres with « haute couture » finishings.

These multicultural activities in association with his esthetics allow him to set and impose the « Chahanian style » : a mix of textures, lightings, fine collections, pure lines, historical and timeless designs.

These personalised atmospheres are presented in luxurious and serene surroundings.

PIASA

Since 2001, his successful participation in several antique fairs and exhibitions such as the « salon du 20ème siècle, le pavillon des antiquaires, le pavillon des arts et du design », the art london fair and the ad intérieurs exhibitions , shows to the public his vision and esthetics as well as a selection of american designers from the 30's to the 70's which he promotes.

His 'presidential suite » at ad intérieurs 2014, had a very strong impact on the « fans ». This installation will remain a visual reference of his style.

His parisian customers, sensitive to his work are growing, and his interior design projects develop. Also the collectors follow his advise and expertise as well as the various presentations in his showroom of comtempory artists such as nancy lorenz, peter lane, shizue imai, and antoinette faragallah...

In february 2008, Chahan gallery open, located at 11 rue de lille in the antiques area « carré rive gauche », offering easy access and visibility to his customers.

This space allows him to show his mid-century furniture collections and to hold exhibitions for artists he promotes.

He also presents pieces of his own design, a few of which are collaborative pieces with the artistes.

In august 2010 Chahan Minassian together with los angeles resident fine jewelry designer vram minassian have masterminded a stunning concept in gray: an exquisitely decorated gem of a gallery where unique artists and ceramicists are showcased alongside unparalleled vintage and custom designs.

In march 2011, Chahan sets the different spaces of the m building in the art district of miami, offering a new showroom on the american east coast.

He is currently working on several projects such as chalets in Gstaad, a bank in Zurich, a house in Geneva , one in mustique, prestigious apartments in New York and London, a palace hotel in Paris, and a 100 meters private yacht.

PIASA

Design Department

Cédric Morisset
François Epin
Cindy Chanthavong
Johanna Colombatti

www.piasa.fr