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The Father of Brazilian Furniture



Sergio Rodrigues at Espasso

The review of the new collection of lamps and the Chifruda armchair.

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The gallery **Espasso** hosts, since the 15th September, a solo exhibition about the Brazilian designer **Sergio Rodrigues**: are shown not only pieces of furniture of 50s and 60s, but also the new collection of lamps and the acclaimed *Chifruda* armchair.

Sergio Rodrigues has been dubbed the father of Brazilian furniture and he is responsible for having established a new paradigm of design in his quest for a clearly recognizable Brazilian identity. Amongst his notorious works are pieces of furniture designed for the Brazilian Embassy in Rome, for the Brasilia University and the Teatro Nacional, his pieces furnish many of Oscar Niemeyer's projects in Brasilia.

Espasso is a gallery located in Tribeca and since three years ago it brings in New York Brazilian furniture design by vintage masters and emerging contemporary designers.



Rodrigues became famous with the Poltrona Mole (1957) which was the winner of the first prize in the IV Concorso Internazionale del Mobile in Cantu in 1961 and was later added to the permanent collection of the Moma in New York. Comprised of jacaranda wood and upholstered leather cushions supported by leather straps, the whimsical piece readily became associated with a typically relaxed Brazilian attitude and lifestyle, informed by Rodrigues' playfulness and wit.



In exhibiton there are also the armchairs *Kilin* (1973), *Tonico for Oca* (1960) e *Oscar* (1956): the first one in freijò wood, with a light colour, the second one and the third one in jacaranda, with a dark colour. And then: the coffee table *Eleh* (1965) and the elegant panca *Mucki* (1958).







Amongst the preview we can find the *Xibo*, *Tcheco*, *Hirth* lamps. Here the images.



And then the *Chifruda*, the armchair with the horns. Rodrigues designed it in the 1962, for an exhibition, in only one piece in jacaranda wood and leather. Now it has been put into production by Mendes-Hirth and it is sold in Espasso place. Even if the jacaranda wood has been substituted by the freijo one, the irreverent mood of the armchair is the same: Chifruda is a pun that refers to someone with horns, but more popularly connotes a wife whose husband is adulterous. We are waiting for the buyers...





