

ZANINE CALDAS

DENUNCIA

LADBROKE HALL | LONDON | 28 APRIL – 10 JUNE



CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY

In a new presentation of the work of José Zanine Caldas, Carpenters Workshop Gallery brings the essence of Caldas' oeuvre to London. Through close consultation with the Instituto José Zanine Caldas a unique collection of work comes together in Denuncia, highlighting the historic evolution of the artist's most iconic piece: the Namoradeira.

Caldas viewed the world holistically, both in his approach to art and design and in his materials and process. Each of his creations is ideologically and formally inserted into a global aesthetic and human project: wood and ceramics are salvaged elements, whether from the natural waste of the forest or the rubble of demolition sites.

The Namoradeira motif is synonymous with Caldas' artistic process, giving rise to a new language based on the use of natural waste, and a closer alliance of craft and modernism through organic forms.

Never displayed together before, each of the three Namoradeira in the exhibition mark a particular period in the artist's life; translating the evolution of his practice and denouncing by the use of available materials in each period the catastrophic deforestation of the Amazon Rainforest.



NAMORADEIRA

Mid 1970s

Pequi Wood

63 x 97 x 90 cm

24 3/4 x 38 1/4 x 35 3/8 in

This Namoradeira is an early example of Caldas' production, most likely from the mid 1970s. It is carved from one single piece of wood as most of the early pieces were. A slight evolution in the carving can already be seen, as the armrest has softer edges and its general shape is smoother.



NAMORADEIRA

Late 1970s

Pequi Wood
78 x 111 x 107 cm
30 3/4 x 43 3/4 x 42 1/8 in

This Namoradeira model is extremely rare. The assembly process is different from the others as it is intended to include varied wood waste from the forest. It shows Caldas' research into wood and engineering through different shapes. Very few examples of this process are known.



NAMORADEIRA
1980s

Mahogany Wood
79.5 x 107 x 79 cm
31 1/4 x 42 1/8 x 31 1/8 in

This seater created during the 1980s is the latest example of the Namoradeira models exhibited. The engineering of the wood is masterful, and the raw and sculptural material has been tamed into a soft and geometrical creation.



DENUNCIA CHAISE LONGUE

1978

Pequi Wood

63 x 46 x 125 cm

24 3/4 x 18 1/8 x 49 1/4 in

Pequi Wood

70 x 49 x 132 cm

27 1/2 x 19 1/4 x 52 in

The trunk of the pequi wood allowed Zanine to achieve exactly what he intended in this lounge chair for resting, talking, playing.





DENUNCIA ARMCHAIRS

1980s

Pequi Wood

79 x 76 x 65 cm

31 1/8 x 29 7/8 x 25 5/8 in

The perfectly rounded shapes of this pair of armchairs with imbedded armrests shows Zanine Caldas' innate knowledge of woodworking craftsmanship. The daring form and harmonious lines bear witness to his contribution in uniting craft and modernism.



DENUNCIA SCULPTURAL BENCH
1982

Pequi Wood
71 x 176 x 81 cm
28 x 69 1/4 x 31 7/8 in

The Sculptural Bench is a part of The Denuncia collection. Carved from raw Brazilian wood, its original texture and simple, crude form defines this piece as a sculptural object. While the peculiarities of the Denuncia collection made it effortlessly at one with its natural surroundings.

The production was inspired by local craftsmanship, with almost all the pieces created at Caldas' shop in Nova Viçosa. Each piece of the Denuncia collection varies slightly – depending on the raw materials that were used. All pieces are defined by their unique and refined character.

This furniture by Zanine, has characteristics of robust sculptures, with free forms and material that was taken from a solid piece of raw wood. The bench was made in small quantities, as part of an intriguing furniture collection.





COFFEE TABLE

1970

Pequi Wood

49 x 140 x 48 cm

19 1/4 x 55 1/8 x 18 7/8 in

Zanine reveals his mastery in the use of wood in this coffee table made of pequi wood.





Photo Credit: The Institutot José Zanine Caldas



Photo Credit: The Institutot José Zanine Caldas

“We must bring the forest indoors, turn the roots of dead trees into ceilings, live with all the living and fictional animals – like the Great Amazon Snake, govern ourselves to better understand life, be the head of our country. We have to grow up to be worthy of the nature of Brazil.”

– JOSÉ ZANINE CALDAS

DINING TABLE

Circa 1960

Pequi Wood, Amaranth Wood, Ceramic

75 x 307 x 95 cm

29 1/2 x 120 7/8 x 37 3/8 in





DINING TABLE

1970

Pequi Wood

79 x 167 x 79 cm

31 1/8 x 65 3/4 x 31 1/8 in

Dining table made of pequi wood. As Zanine himself says:
"What is beautiful works. For me, architecture is essentially a
plastic problem." For this reason, his furniture always seeks
beauty and, thus, becomes a work of art.



Jose Zanine Caldas (1919-2001) was a self-taught artist, designer and architect from Belmonte, Brazil.

For over 10 years he ran a workshop specialising in architectural scale models, where he developed over 500 models for top Brazilian architects including Oscar Niemeyer and Lucio Costa. In 1949, Caldas created the Fábrica Moveis Artísticos Z to produce standardised plywood furniture for a wider public.

Tired of the capitalist approach of the company, he put an end to the venture and moved to the coastal suburb of Nova Viçosa. There he began to create furniture that was later called Móveis Denúncia – protest furniture. Inspired by both the local craftsmanship and the natural resources of the area, his large wooden pieces were often made from a single tree trunk. Caldas was demonstrating for future generations the variety and magnificence of the forest.

Caldas was a radical creator. His work always aimed to find essentialist aspects at the root of each of his projects, whether in the exploration of the natural environment or his conceptualisation of indoor space as a synergy of the senses. His engagement with Brazilian craftsmanship and natural materials underlies the character of all his work.



LONDON LADBROKE HALL | 79 BARLBY RD LONDON | NOTTING HILL

PARIS 54 RUE DE LA VERRERIE | 75004

NEW YORK 693 FIFTH AVENUE | NY 10022

LOS ANGELES 7070 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD | CA 90038