

# funnyture

by Niklas Jacob



MICK © 2023



COUCH POTATO © 2009



PROMPTER STOOL © 2023

FUNNYTURE is a compilation of furniture designed over the years by Niklas Jacob. The exhibited designs come from two separate collections; the Bauhaus Collection and the Design Metafisico Collection. All designs are unique pieces only produced as one-off and never intended for the market. FUNNYTURE explores the boundaries between design and communication, creating an amusing experience by the relationship of significance and object.

In 1917, Marcel Duchamp, the founder of the DADA art movement, displayed a urinal in a New York art gallery, titling it "Fountain" and signing it with the name "R. Mutt." In German *armut* means "poverty". By taking an everyday object from the restroom and placing it in the art gallery, Duchamp transformed its meaning and challenged the way we perceive objects.

This shift in perception was further amplified by the title and signature, making the name inseparable from the artwork. It became an integral part of the relationship between the art and its title, deepening the connection between the two.

Dadaism would go on to influence various art movements, notably Pop Art. Works like Andy Warhol's Campbell's Tomato Soup cans or Roy Lichtenstein's paintings compelled us to reconsider the distinction between everyday commodities, cartoons, and art, all by changing the context. Duchamp's influence also extended to Italian designers. For example, there's a clear line from Duchamp's ready-made sculptures, crafted from found materials, to Achille Castiglioni's "Mezzadro chair." The works of Studio 65 and the design trio De Pas, D'Urbino, and Lomazzi, as well as Ettore Sottsass Jr.'s "Valentine" typewriter, were heavily inspired by Dadaism and Pop Art. Once again, the relationship between name and object could not be separated. FUNNYTURE by Niklas Jacob embodies the same thought process that Duchamp presented in 1917, and powered by Sherwin-Williams Group