



**R & Company to Present Rare and Iconic Historical Masterworks by Wendell Castle,
Isamu Noguchi, Joaquim Tenreiro, and Lisa Bo Bardi
At TEFAF New York**

**Gallery Presentation to Also Include New Works by Celebrated Makers
Roberto Lugo and Katie Stout**

New York, NY—For the upcoming edition of TEFAF New York, R & Company is pleased to present a selection of rare and singular historical masterworks as well as choice contemporary objects by some of today's leading makers. R & Company's presentation will be featured in one of the Park Avenue Armory's second floor historic rooms by Pottier & Stymus, establishing a dynamic dialogue between the environment and intricate works on view. [TEFAF New York](#) opens to the public on May 10, 2024.



Wendell Castle, Stack-laminated Cabinet, 1975–2017, oak. Photography courtesy of R & Company.

Anchoring R & Company's TEFAF presentation is **Wendell Castle's** largest organically shaped cabinet, standing at nearly seven feet tall and featuring a series of doors and drawers. Designed in 1975, Castle completed the left side of the cabinet in Rochester in the same year. Distracted by other projects, he stashed the partially completed cabinet in the corner of his upholstery shop. Intrigued by the uncompleted project, R & Company co-founder and principal Evan Snyderman inquired about it numerous times during personal visits with Castle. In 2017, R

& Company commissioned the acclaimed designer to finally complete the work. Castle finished the cabinet in November 2017 before passing away in January 2018, likely making it the last piece he worked on himself. TEFAF marks R & Company's first showing of this magnificent work, which captures Castle's singular vision and technical mastery.

R & Company will also be showing a group of early and rare designs by renowned artist **Isamu Noguchi**, including the Rudder Dinette Table (model IN-20) and two Rudder Stools (model IN-22), both designed in 1944 and made by Herman Miller, ca. 1944-52. Noguchi's furniture designs were largely never streamlined, resulting in several variants for each model and making available examples particularly rare. While some of Noguchi's Rudder Stools included seats made of plywood repurposed from Eames chairs, the pair exhibited by R & Company are saddle-shaped solid birch. The Rudder Dinette Table is one of

only two commercially produced dining tables by Noguchi—noteworthy for its biomorphic shape and sculptural qualities. Examples of the Rudder Stools are in the collections of the Carnegie Museum of Art—acquired from R & Company in 2020— and Vitra Design Museum.

Among the other featured historical masterworks are **Joaquim Tenreiro**'s Cadeira de Três Pés (1947) and **Lina Bo Bardi**'s Bowl Chair (designed 1951). The presentation of these works highlights R & Company's scholarship in Brazilian design and the gallery's long-standing commitment to engaging collecting and public audiences with Brazilian design history. R & Company loaned seven works by five Brazilian designers from its collection to the groundbreaking exhibition [*Crafting Modernity: Latin American Design 1940-1980*](#), currently on view at MoMA. The gallery also recently completed a second printing of its essential book [*Brazil Modern: The Rediscovery of Twentieth-Century Brazilian Furniture*](#).

Tenreiro's three-legged chair reflects the designer's deep knowledge of material and unique approach to refreshing global modernist trends with Brazilian local woods. Tenreiro constructed the chair—an example of which is featured in *Crafting Modernity*—in variants featuring two to five different woods, requiring an exceptional understanding of how the varied species of wood would behave under changing environmental and technical circumstances. The version presented by the gallery includes five wood variants and highlights the way Tenreiro was able to achieve perfect ergonomics while pushing his materials to their limits.

Bo Bardi's Bowl Chair is the most sought-after historical Brazilian design masterwork among institutions. In the past eight years, it has been acquired by three American museums, including MoMA, the Carnegie Museum of Art, and the MFA Boston, which acquired the work from R & Company in 2023. Originally designed in 1951, Bo Bardi first published her design in 1953 in an issue of *Habitat*—the magazine she founded as the Brazilian equivalent of *Domus*—and put it into production in São Paulo. While the chair was featured in several American publications, it was never retailed in the U.S., and no examples from the early edition are known to have been shipped outside of Brazil. The example presented by the gallery was acquired from a descendent of the original Brazilian owner, accompanied by a certificate and a technical analysis from the Instituto Lina Bo Bardi/Casa de Vidro.



Lina Bo Bardi, *Bardi's Bowl*, c. 1950, aluminum, upholstery, foam. Photography courtesy of R &

R & Company will also present several contemporary objects, including those by leading makers **Katie Stout** and **Roberto Lugo**. The gallery will present vessels from both artists' most recent bodies of work, capturing their distinct visual vocabularies and positioning them within the continuum of design experimentation and innovation. Lugo's featured works are inspired by Josiah Wedgwood's Black Basalt works, which he reinvigorates with his own aesthetic grounded in his cultural history and experiences. Stout's vessels incorporate distinct elements of ceramic flora and fauna that are now part of her iconic aesthetic.

About R & Company

For over 20 years, R & Company has championed collectible design, advancing the contemporary marketplace and actively growing a global collector base and clientele. Its founders, Zesty Meyers and Evan Snyderman, are widely recognized for identifying rising talent, deepening scholarship about collectible design, and developing new avenues for growth in the industry. R & Company maintains two dynamic spaces in New York: its expansive, inaugural space at 82 Franklin Street features a rotating display of interior environments highlighting gallery designers, while 64 White Street offers an active roster of solo and group exhibitions and includes a Library and Archive of more than 10,000 books, photographs, drawings, and other materials. The gallery is committed to nurturing and sustaining the markets and careers of both emerging and established designers, as well as to maintaining and expanding commercial and academic interest in historic design. Its roster of international designers includes Wendell Castle, Rogan Gregory, Greta Magnusson Grossman, Serban Ionescu, Hun-Chung Lee, Joyce Lin, Roberto Lugo, Richard Marquis, Jolie Ngo, Katie Stout, Johnny Swing, Studio Job, Joaquim Tenreiro, and Jeff Zimmerman, among many others. With its vision, passion, and expertise, R & Company serves as a critical platform for experiencing 20th and 21st-century objects and discovering innovative, rare, and significant design.

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For more information, please contact:

Alina Sumajin

PAVE Communications & Consulting

alina@paveconsult.com / 646-369-2050