

LIBERTY

JENS RISOM: A 20TH CENTURY DESIGN STAR

LIBERTY HOSTS RISOM EXHIBITION

18TH JUNE – 15TH JULY

“I developed an American version of Scandinavian modern furniture”

Jens Risom, *Classic Modern 2000*

Liberty has long been known for its championing of 20th Century furniture design, hosting regular exhibitions and retrospectives of designers such as Eero Saarinen and Charles Eames. This June sees Liberty joining forces with influential art and design gallery Rocket to host an exhibition celebrating the designs of Jens Risom.

This Danish-born designer who was recently described by Wallpaper* magazine as “America’s last surviving design star from the mid-century modernist movement”, is now 91 years old. Risom, who lives in New Canaan, Connecticut, is enjoying a renaissance of recognition by a new generation of design aficionados who respect the clean, elegant lines and cabinetry skills that characterise his designs. With Risom’s work increasingly sought after by collectors, the retrospective of his furniture IN 2007, by the Rocket gallery, has proved to be extremely timely as well as popular.



Jens Risom was born in Denmark in 1916 and as a student, attended the School for Arts and Crafts in Copenhagen where his fellow students included Hans Wegner. In 1939, he emigrated to the USA where he met Hans Knoll, the son of an innovative modern German furniture manufacturer who had moved to America in 1938 with the same aspirations. In 1941, Risom designed the first range of furniture manufactured by Knoll, setting up his own design studio, Jens Risom Design, in 1946. At its height, in the mid 1950s, Risom had showrooms worldwide, and a famous ad campaign shot by photographer Richard Avedon.



Honouring tradition in modern design, Risom used both old and new methods and materials in a career that spanned over sixty years. Jonathan Stephenson, Rocket's founder and curator describes Risom's work as "combining Danish tradition with early American modernism." His chairs are now in the permanent collections of New York's Museum of Modern Art, the Yale Museum of Art and Design, and the Cooper Hewitt Design Museum among others.

The Exhibition will be open to the public at Liberty on the fourth floor from Wednesday 18th June to Tuesday 15th July 2008.

Liberty opening times are:

10am – 9pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

12 midday – 6pm Sunday

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Notes to Editors

ROCKET

Established in London's West End in 1994 Rocket Gallery grew out of the publishing imprint The Rocket Press, founded by Jonathan Stephenson. In 2005 Rocket moved to a newly-converted gallery space in London's creative East End.

Over the last decade the gallery has forged an international reputation for its particular vision of minimal painting, sculpture and design. The artists who work with Rocket investigate the areas of crossover between contemporary art, architecture and design.