

Justin Evershed-Martin

Fine Art and Design



A Pair of Modernist Iron Chairs in the manner of Luigi Caccia Dominioni

The chairs have an almost Asian sensibility with their distinctly graphic quality, relying on only their neat silhouette and repeated parallel lines for decoration. The unbroken horseshoe form is surprisingly comfortable despite their minimalist appearance.

Italy, c 1960

The painted finish is original and unrestored with some small patches of loss.

H 78.5 x W 59 x D 42cm

(H31 x W23 x D16 1/2 in)

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These highly refined, minimalist chairs have a wonderfully graphic quality to them. Whether used as dining chairs, desk chairs or even hall, or side chairs, they are unashamedly modern yet classical in essence and marry a visual weightlessness to a very strong and even comfortable form.

The chairs are closely related to the Catilina chair by the Italian architect and designer Luigi Caccia Dominioni (1913-2016). First presented at the 11th Triennale in Milan in 1953 it is accepted as a classic of post-war Italian design yet references both ancient Roman and classical Chinese furniture. Dominioni named his chair after Lucio Sergius Catilina (or Catiline), the 1st century BC Roman soldier and politician whom Cicero described as having the greatest inconstancies, both the greatest of virtues and the worst of vices.

The present pair differ in the use of curved and shaped rods rather than sheet metal and have an angled back rest that makes these chairs more comfortable. They are more vertical in appearance and the repeating lines of the supports echo the work of Charles Rene Mackintosh and the designers of the Viennese Secession.