

# Justin Evershed-Martin

Fine Art and Design



A wing chair

Stamped FH  
Attributed to Fritz Hansen  
Denmark, circa 1955

H 106 x W 81 x D 58cm

(H 41 3/4 x W 32 x D23 in)

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Fritz Hansen was a highly regarded Danish cabinet maker whose family firm, begun in 1872, became the preeminent workshop in 20th Century Denmark. The firm married a reputation for high quality craftsmanship with a uniquely bold attitude to commissioning works, so much so that its history is inextricably entwined with that of its now famous designers who included Kaare Klint, Hans Wegner, Arne Jacobsen, Verner Panton and Poul Kjærholm.

The present chair is typical of the perfect balance of form and function that was so admired by the Danes in the mid-20th Century. The generous proportions and ergonomically carved arms give the perfect degree of support and

make it a supremely comfortable chair for extended use. Whilst as yet unattributed to a specific designer, the broad back and the forward poise of the chair allude to the direct influence of Finn Juhl and his 1949 'Chieftain' chair.

The form of the 'wing' chair, essentially unchanged to today, dates back to the 17th century and was arguably the first chair primarily designed for the comfort of the user. This example, whilst true to function, has an unmistakable modernity to it and though simplified versions continue to be produced, they lack the balance of the graceful lines and the confident swagger of the out-swept back, which make this particular model so successful.

