

Justin Evershed-Martin

Fine Art and Design



An Willy Rizzo Small Low Table

An original steel and brass low table with two shelves of smoked glass set within frames of contrasting metals.

By Willy Rizzo (1928– 2013)

Italy, circa 1970

H 40 x W 50 X D 80 cm
(H 15 ¾ x W19 ¾ x D 31 ½ in)

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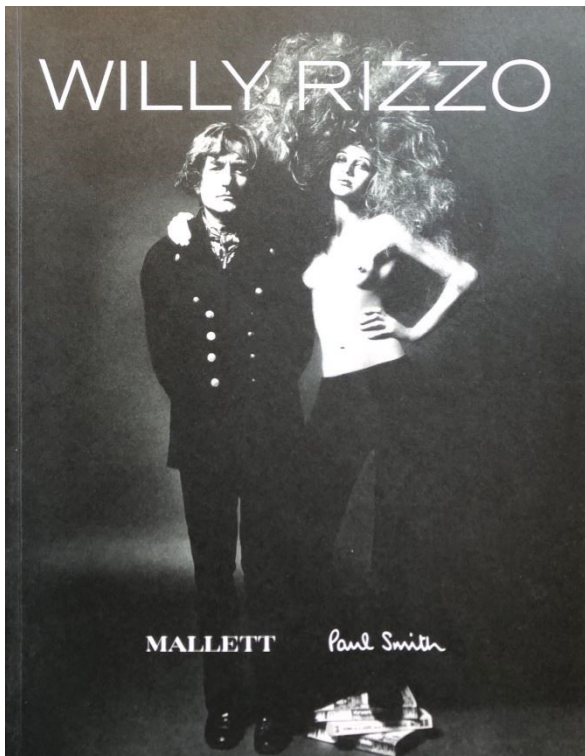
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Willy Rizzo (1928-2013) was an Italian born, Paris-based photographer who took to furniture design to satisfy his own needs, and those of his friends, for modern designs in high quality materials that would complement, rather than contradict, the fine art and antiques that they collected. Rejecting the untested and fallible materials adopted by his contemporaries such as Ettore Sottsass and Joe Colombo he preferred brass, steel and stone. Enormously famous in his day and married first to Elsa Martinelli, he lived an international life and drew inspiration for his creations from both Eastern and Western cultures. Now arguably better known for his furniture than his photography it was his wish for a coffee table in his own apartment in a palazzo in Rome which was not a pastiche of an antique that spurred him to start his own business.



Above:

A period marketing photo showing an example of the present side table with a Rizzo designed lamp in front of a 17th century Chinese lacquer screen from his own collec-



In his own words in 2007 “it was never about recreating classic styles in modern furniture, that wasn’t the point. It was about creating something new for a traditional setting.”

Left:

Rizzo retired in the 1980’s but agreed to collaborate with Mallett and Paul Smith to hold two retrospective exhibitions of his furniture and photographs in London and in New York in 2007 and 2009.

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