

ALVAR AALTO: FURNITURE AND GLASS

September 27–November 27, 1984

The Museum of Modern Art
11 West 53 Street
New York, New York 10019



No. 20

FACT SHEET

- EXHIBITION:** ALVAR AALTO: FURNITURE AND GLASS
- DATES:** September 27 - November 27, 1984 (Press preview, September 26)
- DIRECTOR:** J. Stewart Johnson, Curator of Design, Department of Architecture and Design
- SPONSOR:** The exhibition was organized with generous grants from the Finnish Society of Crafts and Design and the Finnish Ministry of Education; Artek; and ICF, Inc.
- CONTENTS:** ALVAR AALTO: FURNITURE AND GLASS will cover the Finnish architect/designer's industrial design work in depth, and will be the first exhibition ever to present the full range of Aalto's furniture--from his short-lived experiments with tubular steel in the 1920s and his subsequent groundbreaking explorations of bent wood techniques through his mature furniture pieces of the 1950s. The glass exhibited will include examples of Aalto's famous 1937 free-form vases and bowls, the shapes of which were a radical departure from the streamline styles prevalent at the time. In addition, earlier and less well known, mass-produced, glass dinner and kitchen wares he designed with his wife Aino will be shown.
- Included will be approximately 35 examples of furniture, some 35 pieces of glass, and a number of furniture parts and sculptural reliefs. There will also be more than 50 sketches and finished drawings for the above work as well as photographic panels showing the furniture as it originally appeared in interior settings and at international expositions. A short film focussing on the manufacture of Aalto furniture in Finland will also be shown in the gallery.
- PUBLICATION:** An extended brochure will accompany the exhibition and include an illustrated critical introduction to the show written by Mr. Johnson as well as a checklist of objects.
- SYMPOSIUM AND EXHIBITION TALKS:** Mr. Johnson will chair a day-long symposium on Aalto's significance as a designer of furniture on Friday, October 26, at the Institute for International Education, 809 United Nations Plaza. He will also lead four special tours of the exhibition scheduled for 3 p.m. on Tuesdays, October 2, 9, 16, and 23. For further information on these events, please contact the Museum's Education Department at 708-9795.
- EXHIBITION TOUR:** Mary and Leigh Block Gallery, Evanston, Illinois, January 25 - March 24, 1985; Akron Art Museum, Akron, Ohio, August 25 - October 6, 1985; Musee des Arts Decoratifs, Montreal, Quebec, November 11 - January 6, 1986; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, March 7 - April 18, 1986; The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, Virginia, June 19 - August 17, 1986. A foreign tour of the show is being planned and final destinations and dates will be forthcoming.