



Brutalist Solid Wood Umbrella Stand, French, Circa 1950



780 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Length : 31

Width : 22

Height : 46

Description

The years immediately following the Liberation were, paradoxically, among the most productive in the history of French furniture design. Material scarcity imposed constraints that proved generative: makers who could not obtain gilded bronze or exotic veneers were obliged to work with what was available -- principally solid native wood -- and the results, in the hands of the period's most gifted ateliers, were objects of radical simplicity and considerable formal authority. The term "brutàlist" is often applied to this tendency, borrowing its resonance from the contemporary architectural movement that elevated raw material -- béton brut, bois brut -- to the status of a design value rather than a deficiency to be concealed. This umbrella stand, in solid wood and of a directness that allows no

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Tel : 06 12 37 55 55

Mobile : 06 12 37 55 55

53 rue du Vieux four

Marcq-en-Baroeul 59700

ornament, belongs to that current. Its dimensions -- 31 centimetres wide, 46 centimetres tall -- are those of a compact, self-assured object: it takes no more space than it needs, offers no apology for its plainness, and relies entirely on the weight and grain of its material for whatever visual interest it possesses. These are the values of the post-Liberation atelier: the conviction that honest craftsmanship in a good material requires no decoration, and that proportion and surface are sufficient. Brutalist wooden objects of this period are now among the most sought-after of post-war French design, collected alongside the works of Guillerme & Chambron, Alexandre Noll, and Charlotte Perriand as expressions of a moment when French furniture reclaimed its capacity for formal rigour after a decade of wartime privation. This stand -- modest in its declaration and confident in its means -- is a characteristic product of that sensibility: a piece in which the absolute economy of means is, itself, the statement.