THREE-SEATER SOFA

KAARE KLINT

DANSK MØBEL KUNST

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Kaare Klint (1888-1954)
Denmark

A three-seater sofa with original Niger leather

Model 4118 - designed 1930

Dimensions:
W: 199 cm D: 80 cm H: 86 cm Seat: 37 cm

Materials:
Mahogany frame and Niger leather

Made by:
Cabinetmakers Rudolf Rasmussen, Copenhagen

Literature: Gorm Harkær '*Kaare Klint*', Klintiana, 2010, Vol. 1, p. 267, 361

Price on request

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Kaare Klint is recognized as the founding father of Danish Modernism. As an architect, furniture designer and leading professor at the Department of Furniture Design at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Klint established the principles of modern Danish furniture by combining a profound appreciation of traditional construction techniques with a modernist emphasis on function and a rejection of ornaments. He had a refined material sensibility and always chose materials with a strong character and allure that would become even more beautiful with age.

Klint's design was based on a relentless research. Every piece had to fulfil its purpose and possess a complete clarity in its construction with dimensions and proportions corresponding to the human body. Like many of his contemporaries, counting Le Corbusier and Walter Gropius, he advocated standardization and functional requirements and dismissed the use of ornamentation. But Klint realised his vision in handcrafted wood and leather and found his inspiration in historical models. In this way, he charted the course for an alternative Nordic Functionalism that idealized the workshop and the collaboration between furniture architects and cabinetmakers as opposed to the factory.

The present sofa is a perfect example of Klint's aesthetic ideal. The box-shape is a well-defined precise entity resulting in an overall distinguished appearance. It is not a sofa for slouching but rather requires a certain amount of dignity from the user. The sofa retains the original Niger leather, a goatskin originating from the Niger river delta and favored by Klint for its strength and ability to develop a beautiful deep cognac patina.