

4 Franz West

1947 – Vienna – 2012

Onkel-Stuhl (Uncle Chair)l. 2008

8 chairs: each textile tape over steel structure. Each
84 × 51 × 58 cm and 84 × 61 × 58 cm

(33 ⅓ × 20 ⅓ × 22 ⅞ in. resp. 33 ⅓ × 24 × 22 ⅞ in.).

Each with embossed number at the rear left chair leg:

P630, P633, P640, P642, P643, P645, P648 resp.

P6722. 8 copies with unique character from an open
edition. [3114]

Provenance

Private Collection, Bavaria (acquired at Galerie Meyer
Kainer, Vienna)

EUR 60,000–80,000

USD 70,600–94,100

We would like to thank the Franz West Privatstiftung, Vienna,
for kindly providing additional information.

Franz West is one of the most important Austrian artists of the post-war period. Internationally renowned for his interactive sculptures – known as 'Passstücke' – and his furniture objects, he challenges the conventional boundaries between artwork and viewer, as well as between functional object and autonomous sculpture. West's work is shaped by a playful engagement with everyday forms and materials, through which he fuses functionality and aesthetic. His artistic approach is consistently orientated toward dialogue with the audience, creating non-hierarchical spaces for participatory experiences.

The presented group of eight 'Uncle Chairs' perfectly represents West's distinctive artistic approach, whilst precisely encapsulating the concept of simultaneous function and art. The 'Uncle Chair' consists of a welded tubular steel frame, slightly asymmetrical and deliberately imprecise in its construction. A web of vibrantly coloured straps, woven by hand into an elastic mesh, forms the seat and backrest. The colours are selected individually, with the backrest and seat always differing from one another. Each piece retains its own uniqueness through its pattern and colour combination.

Since the early 1980s, seating and reclining furniture, as well as lamps and tables, have been finding their way into West's room installations. During documenta X (1997), Franz West furnished the documenta hall, designed by Heimo Zobernig, with his 300 'Doku chairs' as part of the event series '100 Days – 100 Guests.' The chairs were not merely objects within the space, but instead, they themselves became works of art, activated by the bodies of those who used them.

David Zwirner, one of West's gallery owners, writes about the 'Uncle Chairs': 'I have lived with practically every type of furniture Franz has created – chairs, sofas, divans, tables. And I find that his dining chairs are among the most comfortable I have ever seen.'

ZB

