

For the blind man...

BRUNO MUNARI



Bruno Munari was an artist, graphic designer, industrial designer, poet, and illustrator, among other endeavors. Incorporating basic shapes (the circle, the square), basic materials (paper, wood), and basic objects (chairs, tables), he remained curious about the most common things in life. In this series of twelve grainy black and white photographs, he presents a man's twelve attempts to sit in an armchair while reading his newspaper.

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Bruno Munari was born in 1907 in Milan, where he died in 1998. There he was mentored at eighteen by Futurist artist Filippo Tommaso Marinetti. Munari first showcased his *Useless Machines* in 1932—a series of Dadaist, ever-moving geometrical solids suspended in the air. In 1948, Munari, along with Atanasio Soldati, Gianni Monnet, and the art critic, Gillo Dorfles, formed the MAC Movement (Movimento per l'Arte Concreta) with the hope “to develop abstract painting and sculpture, with no links whatsoever to the outside world.” During this time, Munari continued creating his Convex-Concave sculptures and experimented with color, space, movement, form, and background in his *Negative-Positive* works. The Italian Design Industry’s interest in Munari led him to create the Pigomma Company’s toy monkey, the Danesi melamine cube ashtray, and other works. After a career of over seventy productive years, Munari gained the title of “founding father of Italian design.”

Image:

*Seeking comfort in an uncomfortable armchair, ca. 1950*

Sequence of photographs from *Fantasia* (1977)

Courtesy of Alberto Munari / Corraini Edizioni