

Jacques Adnet
(1901 – 1984)

An icon of luxurious French Modernism, Jacques Adnet began his education at the Municipal School of Design in Auxerre and the École des Beaux-Arts Paris. Inspired by pre-classical style, Adnet believed in the functional aspect of furniture combined with geometrical aesthetic simplicity. Jacques Adnet was well acquainted with traditional furniture. Until the age of 28, Jacques lived and worked hand in hand with his twin brother Jean at the Studio La Maitrise, where they met and were influenced by Maurice Dufrene. From 1928 to 1960, beginning at the age of 28, Adnet directed La Compagnie des Arts Français. CAF provided Adnet with an ideal platform from which to promote his modernist designs. His team of decorators included François Jourdain, Charlotte Perriand and Georges Jouve. Adnet presided over the Salon des Artistes Décorateurs from 1947 to 1949. Adnet worked throughout the 1950s, concentrating on the numerous commissions he received, such as the decoration of the private apartments of the President at the Elysée Palace, or the meeting room of the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. In 1959 he became the director of École nationale supérieure des arts décoratifs in Paris until 1970.

He exhibited at the 1925 Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes. Distinctly avant garde, Adnet was among the first to expect metal and glass to integrate with the structure and decoration of furniture.

Jacques Adnet died in 1984 having created a legacy of fine design that feels modern even today.