

MODERN DESIGN



Auction

20 March 2005
noon ct

Wright

1440 West Hubbard Street
Chicago IL
t 312 563 0020
f 312 563 0040

wright20.com
bid@wright20.com

135

HARRY BERTOIA prototype chair and original drawing

USA, c. 1940 | birch plywood and dowel
33½ h × 18 w × 21 d in (85 × 46 × 53 cm)

An important developmental chair by Bertoia. While the overall form of the chair is heavily influenced by the work of Aalto and Breuer, Bertoia's treatment of the seat with its structure of repeated wooden dowels points the way to Bertoia's breakthrough furniture series comprised of metal rods. Bertoia's furniture designs are among the most commercially successful of the twentieth century. This experimental chair is from the artist's personal collection and is quite probably the earliest seating design of Bertoia's career.

Provenance: Acquired directly from the artist's private collection, Pennsylvania

Estimate: \$30,000–40,000

Result: \$20,000

WRIGHT