

DELORENZO

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#1784

EILEEN GRAY (1878-1976), circa 1923

"Sirène" armchair in black lacquer; the backrest carved and painted to represent a siren embracing a seahorse; the seat upholstered in copper velvet; the legs with circular detailing on the bottom.

Measurements

<i>Chair</i>	<i>Seat</i>
Height: 34 ½ in (87.6 cm)	Height: 18 in (45.7 cm)
Width: 26 ⅞ in (68.3 cm)	Width: 19 ½ in (47 cm)
Depth: 21 ½ in (54.6 cm)	Depth: 16 ¼ in (41.3 cm)

Exhibitions

Eileen Gray: Designer, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 1979.

Eileen Gray: Designer, Museum of Modern Art, New York, 7 February – 1 April 1980.

Eileen Gray, Centre National d'Art et de Culture Georges Pompidou, Paris, 20 February – 20 May 2013, and Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, 11 October 2013 – 19 January 2014.

Documentation

Recorded as "Sirène" in the Jean Désert Gallery daybook of 1923.

Peter Adam, *Eileen Gray: Architect/Designer*, New York: Abrams, 1987, pp. 59 (**this chair illustrated**) and listed on 383 under number 46.

Centre National d'Art et de Culture Georges Pompidou, *Eileen Gray* exhibition catalogue, text by Cloé Pitiot and others, Paris, 2013, pp. 31 and 147 (**this chair illustrated**).

Centre National d'Art et de Culture Georges Pompidou, *Eileen Gray: The Exhibition* exhibition catalogue, text by Cloé Pitiot and others, Paris, 2013, p. 17 (**this chair illustrated**).

Philippe Garner, *Eileen Gray: Designer and Architect*, London: Taschen, 1993, pp. 96-97 (**this chair illustrated**).

Provenance

Galerie Jean Désert

Marisa Damia

Versailles, 9 April 1978, lot 162

Sotheby's New York, *Robin Symes Sale*, 6 May 1989, lot 87

DeLorenzo Gallery, New York, 1989-1992

Private Collection, Colorado, 1992-2009

This iconic piece relates to what we could define as Eileen Gray's early period. This armchair is a rare testament to her masterful technique and her preferred themes at that time. The inspiration was found in antiquity, seen also in Jacques Doucet's commissions, such as the Lotus table and the red lacquer table. The lacquer work, also typical of her work at the time, was taught to her by the Japanese master Seizo Sugawara, teacher to Jean Dunand as well. Additionally, this armchair is also very special as a testament to her personal life. Initially in the inventory of the Galerie Jean Désert, it was acquired by Damia, Eileen Gray's lover, and kept long after.

