**Shiro Kuramata**

(1934 - 1991, Japan)

In 1956 he obtained a degree in interior design at “Kuwasawa Design School” and, in 1966 he opened an own studio in Tokyo. In Seventies and Eighties he became keen on revolutionary possibility of new tecnologies and industrial materials. He produced objects made by acrylic, glass, aluminium, steel mesh. In 1972 he received the “Mainichi Industrial Prize” and, in the same year, he drew the acryllic lamp *Oba-Q*. In 1976 he realised his first chair and table completely with glass. In 1981 he received the “Japan Cultural Design Award”.

Kuramata took inspiration from Japan culture and from the Ettore Sottsass and Memphis group’s creativity. He joined Memphis Group in Milan between 1981 and 1983. Two years later he drew *Begin the Beguine*, in honour of the architect Joseph Hoffman. In 1986 the realised *How high the Moon* a chair made by steel mesh and, in 1988, he worked at the chair *Miss Blanche*. He realised also interior design such as boutiques for Issey Miyake in New York, Paris and Tokyo. In 1990 he was awarded with the “Ordre des Arts et des Lettres” by the French government.