

FRIEDMAN BENDA
515 W 26TH STREET
NEW YORK NY 10001

ANDREA BRANZI
CONTEMPORARY
DNA

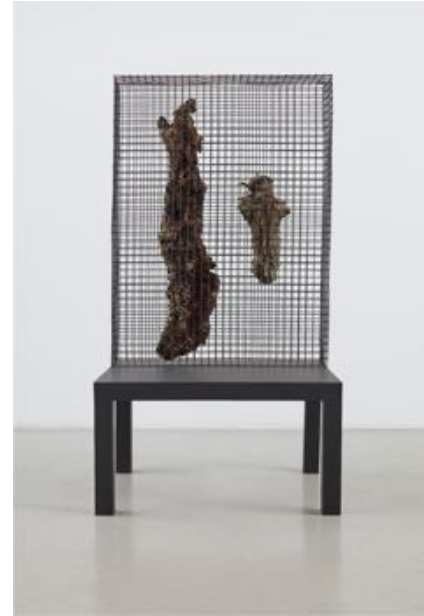
MAR 2 – APR 22 2023



Andrea Branzi



Germinal Seats, 2022



Roots, 2022

Opening Reception: Thursday, March 2nd, 6-8 pm

New York – Friedman Benda is pleased to present *Contemporary DNA*, seminal Italian designer and architect Andrea Branzi's third solo exhibition with the gallery. An exemplary social thinker and educator, Branzi has been a fundamental voice in post-war and contemporary architecture and design, in Italy and abroad, since the mid 1960s. A culmination of his intuitive processes of turning research into physical form, this comprehensive and far-reaching exhibition unveils three new bodies of work: *Roots*, *Germinal Seats*, and *Buildings*. Presciently taking stock of our time, these works are composed of exceptions and variations throughout Andrea Branzi's artistic evolution.

Throughout his influential career, Branzi maintained a fascination with human and object interactions, exploring them through radical and poetic interpretations of the domestic space. Understanding objects as living presences in the human habitat allowed Branzi to establish complex psychological, symbolic, and poetic relationships with them. He believed that objects were never just simple tools, but fragments of an anthropological universe, "a universe at the same time material and immaterial, functional and superfluous, about which we still know very little."

In the mid-eighties, two decades after co-founding the radical architecture and design studio Archizoom, Branzi turned away from the highly-stylized aesthetic of postmodern design to embrace a movement he called "neoprimitivism." Culminating in his seminal *Animali Domestici* (1985-1986) series, this exploration combined rectilinear and industrial sensibilities with natural elements such as logs, sticks, and wood offcuts.

The tensions between commodified and natural, gestural and methodical, artisanal and industrial, landscape and architecture, are most recently explored in *Roots* and *Germinal Seats*. Consisting of sticks and driftwood, *Roots* points to what has been abandoned and is now preserved as a relic of a distant time. Noble memories that we protect in cages; the roots of our aesthetic values. The bamboo in *Germinal Seats* is colorful yet precise. It guides us towards a rich and orderly world; an infinite architecture that belongs to thought.