

These Conceptual Japanese Chairs Are Inspired by Manga

By Kristin Hohenadel



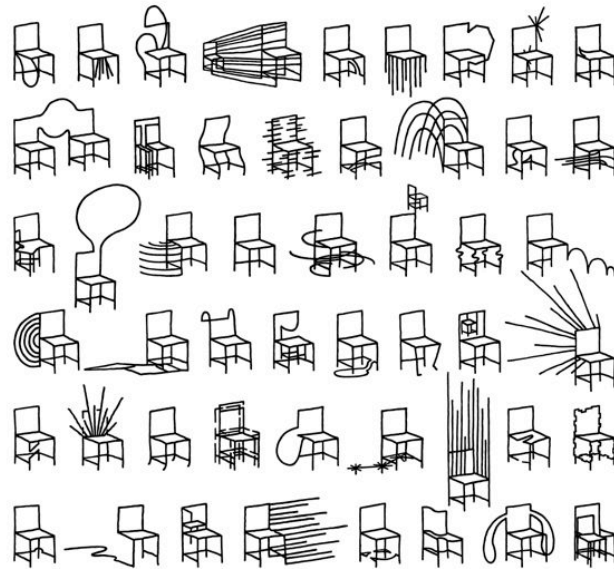
A speech bubble chair by Nendo inspired by Japanese manga.

Kenichi Sonehara

Designers find inspiration everywhere, often looking to other genres to **unlock new ideas**. Now Japanese designers **Nendo** have created a series of 50 high-concept chairs for New York City gallery **Friedman Benda** inspired by the visual language of manga, currently on display at this week's 55th annual **Milan Furniture Fair**, the world's largest trade fair for interior design.

Hohenadel, Kristin. "These Conceptual Japanese Chairs Are Inspired by Manga." *Slate*, April 14, 2016.

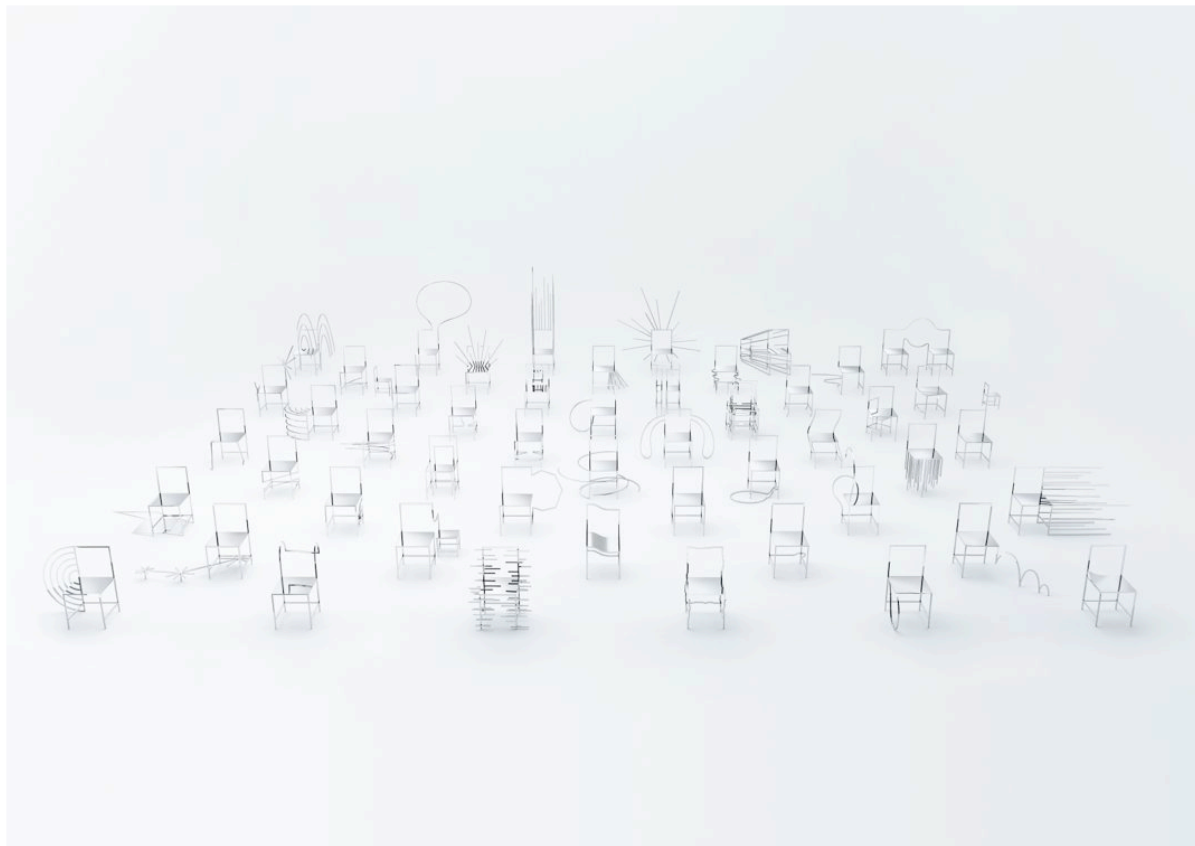
FRIEDMAN BENDA 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001
FRIEDMANBENDA.COM TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760



Hohenadel, Kristin. "These Conceptual Japanese Chairs Are Inspired by Manga." *Slate*,
April 14, 21016.

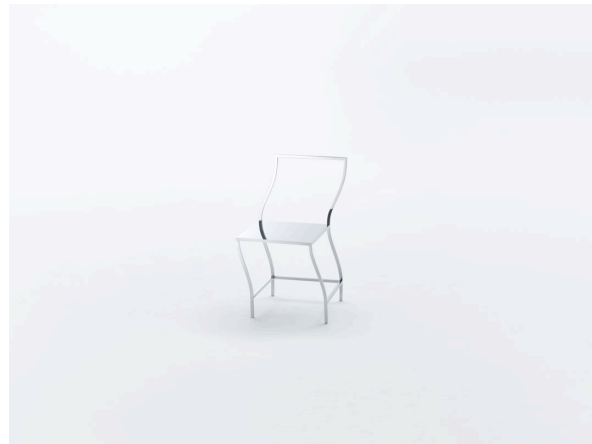
FRIEDMAN BENDA 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001

FRIEDMANBENDA.COM TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760



All 50 chairs.

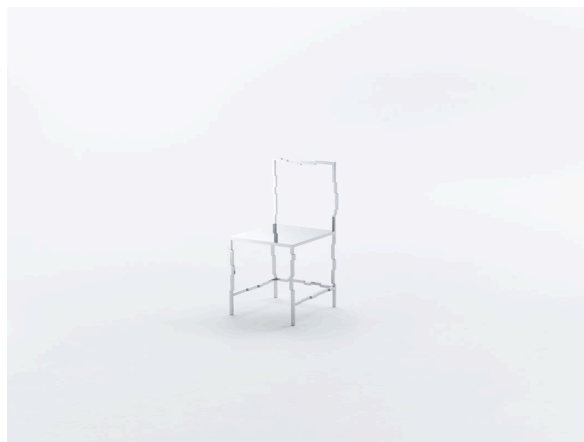
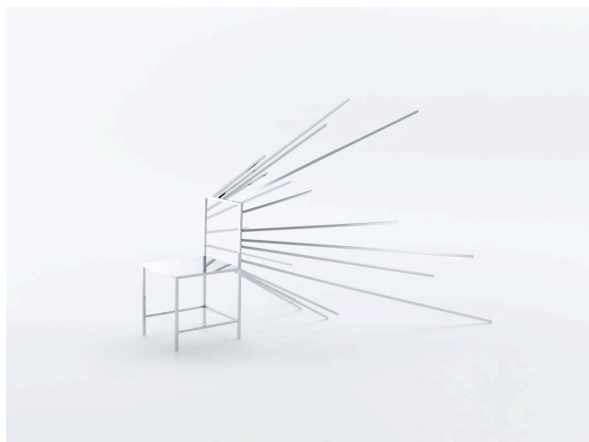
Kenichi Sonehara



Hohenadel, Kristin. "These Conceptual Japanese Chairs Are Inspired by Manga." *Slate*, April 14, 21016.

FRIEDMAN BENDA 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001

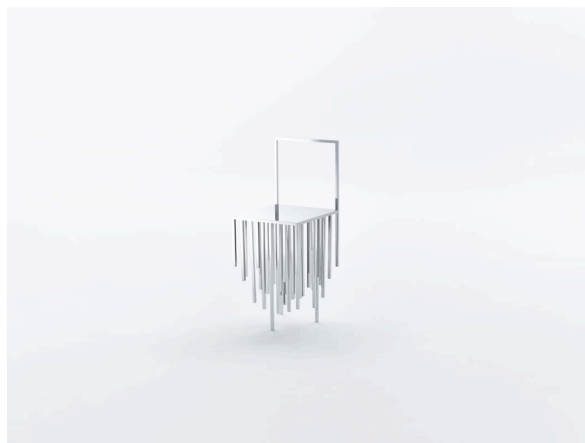
FRIEDMANBENDA.COM TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760



Just as manga comics consist of “a series of frames on a single sheet of paper that creates a sequence,” they write, each of the 50 chairs represent a design element from manga—like a “speech bubble” chair meant to evoke sound (top); and emotional symbols like “sweat” or “tears” designed so that “a sense of story and character” could be felt.

Hohenadel, Kristin. “These Conceptual Japanese Chairs Are Inspired by Manga.” *Slate*, April 14, 21016.

FRIEDMAN BENDA 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001
FRIEDMANBENDA.COM TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760



Hohenadel, Kristin. "These Conceptual Japanese Chairs Are Inspired by Manga." *Slate*, April 14, 2016.

FRIEDMAN BENDA 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001

FRIEDMANBENDA.COM TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760



These conceptual chairs were not created as safe havens for your weary behind. Instead, they are lined up in a grid, elegant in form and dripping with symbolism, waiting for viewers to use them as fodder to create their own manga-inspired storylines.



The chairs have a smooth mirrored surface.

Kenichi Sonehara

Hohenadel, Kristin. "These Conceptual Japanese Chairs Are Inspired by Manga." *Slate*, April 14, 2016.

FRIEDMAN BENDA 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001
FRIEDMANBENDA.COM TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760

“With the abstraction of manga comics in mind, physical aspects such as colour and texture are intentionally avoided as much as possible,” they write, adding that they chose a mirror finish that “reflects the real world, just like manga does.”



On display in Milan in an outdoor courtyard.

Takumi Ota

Kristin Hohenadel's writing on design has appeared in publications including the *New York Times*, *Fast Company*, *Vogue*, *Elle Decor*, *Lonny*, and *Apartment Therapy*.



113

30

6

Hohenadel, Kristin. “These Conceptual Japanese Chairs Are Inspired by Manga.” *Slate*, April 14, 2016.

FRIEDMAN BENDA 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001

FRIEDMANBENDA.COM TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760