Ettore Sottsass
Friedman Benda // September 10–October 17

Staged as an elaborate domestic tableau, this exhibition surveys furniture, ceramics, and photographs made between 1955 and 1969. Many of the works display the signature whimsy that Sottsass carried over into the design work of the Memphis Group, which he founded in 1981. The best pieces are understated, like a painted-wood magazine rack with undulating curves; a lacquered-wood room divider and squat, colorful umbrella stand are likewise quietly chic. A series of black-and-white photographs of car grilles, trailers, and a nun riding a trolley in San Francisco complement the functional pieces.

Calippo Sottsass, 1965.