

**FRIEDMAN BENDA  
515 W 26TH STREET  
NEW YORK NY 10001**

**NENDO / Oki Sato, principal designer**

2012            Established nendo, Singapore Office

2005            Established nendo, Milan Office

2002            M.A. in Architecture, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan  
Established nendo, Tokyo, Japan

1977            Born in Toronto, Canada

**Select Museum and Public Collections**

21\_21 Design Sight/Issey Miyake, Tokyo, Japan  
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois  
Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY  
Carnegie Museum of Art, New York, NY  
Centre Pompidou, Paris, France  
Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH  
Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, New York, NY  
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX  
Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO  
Design Museum, London, England  
Design Museum Holon, Holon, Israel  
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
Indianapolis Museum of Arts, IN  
The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA  
M + Museum, Kowloon, Hong Kong, China  
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Canada  
Mondriaan Foundation, Netherlands  
Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France  
Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York  
Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX  
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia  
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA  
Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY  
St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO  
Triennale Design Museum, Milan, Italy  
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England  
Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany

## Select Solo Exhibitions

- 2022 *NENDO SEES KYOTO*, Friedman Benda, New York, NY  
*NENDO SEES KYOTO*, Nissoudan, Nijo-jo Castle, Kyoto, Japan
- 2019 *Escher X nendo | Between Two Worlds* (duo-show), National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
- 2017 *NENDO: INVISIBLE OUTLINES*, Centre d'innovation et de design au Grand-Hornu, Hornu, Belgium
- 2016 *nendo: 50 manga chairs*, Friedman Benda, New York, NY  
*nendo: The Space in Between*, Design Museum Holon, Israel  
*trace collection*, Collective Influence, Collective Design, New York, NY  
*nendo: 50 manga chairs*, Milan Design Week, Milan, Italy  
*nendo: looking through the window*, Taiwan Design Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2015 *ChocolaTextureLounge*, Maison & Objet, Paris, France  
*Tokyo tribal collection*, Mausib & Objet, Singapore  
*nendo works 2014-2015*, Milan Design Week, Milan, Italy  
*nendo 3/3*, Eye of Gyre, Tokyo, Japan
- 2014 *Works by nendo*, Milan Design Week, Milan, Italy
- 2013 *80 sheets of mountains*, Stockholm Furniture Fair, Stockholm, Sweden  
*Nichetto=Nendo*, Milan Design Week, Milan, Italy  
*Glassworks*, Dilmos Gallery, Milan, Italy  
*Stone Garden*, International Design Show, Toronto, Canada
- 2012 *Mimicry Chairs*, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK  
*trial & error*, Visconti Palace, Milan, Italy  
*Still and Sparkling*, Superstudio, Milan, Italy  
*Black & Black*, Carrozzeria, Milan, Italy  
*Nendo: Static Bubbles*, Carpenter's Workshop Gallery, Paris, France  
*Nendo: object dependencies*, Pierre-Alain Challier Gallery, Paris, France  
*still & sparkling*, Prague House, Brussels, Belgium
- 2011 *Scatter Shelf*, Friedman Benda, New York, NY  
*10 Days, 10 Shelves*, Carpenter's Workshop Gallery, London, UK  
*High Design – In Conjunction with Modern Design*. High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
*dancing squares*, Art Stage, Singapore  
*textured transparencies*, Antonia Jannone Gallery, Milan, Italy  
*textured transparencies*, Gallery Agathe Helion & Clear, Paris, France  
*thin black lines + dancing squares*, National Taiwan Craft Research and Development Institute, Taichung, Taiwan  
*50 projects\_25 objects + 25 spaces*, Axis Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
*Japan: Tradition, Innovation*, Canadian Museum of Civilization, Quebec,

## Canada

- 2010 *Thin Black Lines + Blurry White Surfaces*, Saatchi Gallery and Phillips de Pury, London, England  
*Chair Garden*, Antonia Jannone Gallery, Milan, Italy  
*The State of Things, Design and the 21st Century*, Design Museum Holon, Israel
- 2009 *Ghost Stories: New Design from nendo*, Museum of Arts and Design, New York  
*Ghost Stories*, Inaugural solo exhibition. Friedman Benda, New York
- 2008 *Milan Design Week*, Cappellini, De Padova, Council, Guzzini, Milan, Italy  
*Lexus L-finesse*, La Permanente, Milan, Italy  
*Kuuki*, Le Bain gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2006 Stockholm Furniture Fair, Stockholm, Sweden  
Milan International Furniture Fair, Milan, Italy  
*bloomroom*, Milan, Italy  
*Tokyo Object Flow*, PNCA, Portland, Oregon  
*bloomroom*, IED, Madrid, Spain  
*Handle Couples Project*, Berlin, Germany  
International Furniture Fair, Tokyo, Japan
- 2005 Stockholm Furniture Fair, Stockholm, Sweden  
Milan International Furniture Fair. DePadova, Oluce, Swedese, Milan, Italy  
ICFF New York, New York, NY  
*AMA-YADO LOUNGE*, DesignTide, Tokyo, Japan
- 2004 Paris International Furniture Fair, Design Lab, Paris, France  
International Furniture Fair, Cologne, Germany  
Stockholm Furniture Fair, Stockholm, Sweden  
Milan International Furniture Fair, Swedese and Salone Satellite, Milan, Italy  
*Furniture*, Tokyo Design Center, Tokyo, Japan
- 2003 *Streeterior*, Milan Design Week, Milan, Italy; Tokyo Design Center, Tokyo, Japan; Living Design Center OZONE, Tokyo, Japan

## Select Group Exhibitions

- 2021 *Colors, Etc.*, Lille3000, Tripostal, Lille, France
- 2020-2021 *Kleureyck: Van Eyck's Colours in Design*, Design Museum Gent, Ghent, Belgium
- 2020 *What Would Have Been*, Friedman Benda, New York, NY
- 2019 *An Accelerated Culture*, curated by Libby Sellers and Brent Dzekciorius, Friedman Benda, New York, NY

- 2018-2019 *When Attitudes Become Chairs*, Pizzuti Collection at the Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH  
*Design et Merveilleux*, Musée d'art modern, Saint-Priest-en-Jarez, France
- 2017 *NGV Triennial*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia  
*Free Play*, Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA  
*Mutations-Créations/ Imprimer le monde*, Centre Pompidou, Paris
- 2016 *Design Currents: Oki Sato, Faye Toogood, Zanini de Zanine*, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
- 2014 *Space Dipped Shirts*, Milan Design Week, Milan, Italy  
*Rain Bottle*, Maison & Objet, Paris, France  
*shelf + desk + chair = office*, Orgatec, Cologne, Germany
- 2013 *Colored-pencil Table*, Saint-Etienne Design Biennial, Saint Etienne  
*Waterdream*, Cersaie, Milan, Italy  
*Roof and Mushrooms*, Kyoto University of Art and Design, Kyoto, Japan
- 2012 *Future Primitives*, Biennale Interieur, Kortijk  
*Sex & Design Exhibition*, Triennale Design Museum, Milan, Italy
- 2011 *Haute Tension*, Maison & Objet, Paris, France  
*Modern by Design*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
Beijing International Design Triennial, Reason Design Emotion, National Museum of China, Beijing  
*Can you imagine?*, MAXXI Museo Nazionale Delle Arti del XXI Secolo, Rome, Italy
- 2010 *13,798 grams of design*, Lambretto Art Project, Milan, Italy  
*International Kogei Triennale*, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa  
*Kansei Design Showcase*, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa
- 2009 *Extra Much*, imm cologne, Cologne, Germany  
*Hand of the Architect*, Triennale di Milano, Milan, Italy  
*Tokyo Fiber*, SENESWARE, Triennale di Milano, Milan, Italy  
*Second Nature*, Rundetaarn, Copenhagen  
*Delight*, Maison & Objet, Paris, France  
*Detour*, MoMA Design Store, Tokyo, Japan
- 2008 *XXIst Century Man*, 21\_21 DESIGN SIGHT, Tokyo, Japan  
*Design and the Elastic Mind*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
*Foodesign*, Triennale di Milano, Milan, Italy
- 2007 *Power of Expression, Japan*, National Art Center, Tokyo, Japan  
*All light, All right*, Hangaram Design Museum, Seoul, Korea  
*Space for your future*, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Japan

- 2006 *Archilab 2006*, Orleans, France  
*DuoHandles*, Stilwerk, Berlin, German
- 2005 *Shanghai Cool*, Duolun Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2003 *Monom Factory*, Living Design Center OZONE, Tokyo, Japan

## **Awards**

- 2019 Designer of the Year, AW Architektur & Wohnen
- 2015 Designer of the Year. Maison & Objet  
Interior Designer of the Year, Iconic Design award  
Change Maker of the Year, Nikkei Online  
Elle Deco, International Design Awards
- 2012 Designer of the Year. Wallpaper\* Magazine  
Designer of the Year. Elle Deco, International Design Award
- 2008 red dot design award, Germany  
Furniture Design Award, FDA Grand Prize, Singapore  
I.D. Annual Design Review, Design Distinction, USA  
100% design, Best contribution to design, England  
Brit Insurance, Design Award, England  
iF product design award, Germany
- 2007 JCD Design Award, Gold Award, Silver Award and Special Mention  
I.D. Annual Design Review, Best Product, Design Distinction and Honorable  
Mention, USA  
Elle Deco, International Design Award
- 2006 JCD Design Award, Special Mention and Silver Award  
Architectural Record Magazine, Products Report for Prototype  
Design for Asia, China
- 2005 JCD Design Award, Award for Excellence and Special Mention  
JID Award Biennial, Grand Prix and Interior Product Award
- 2004 JCD Design Award, Rookie Award  
Good Design Award  
Elle Deco, International Design Award
- 2003 Design Report, Award Special Mention, Milan International Furniture Fair, Salone  
Satellite, Milan, Italy  
Tokyo Designers Block and TDB Award  
Tokyo Designers Week and Design Premio, Tokyo, Japan

2002 KOIZUMI International Lighting Design Competition for Students, Gold Award  
SD Review  
Tokyo Designers Block / FRAME Award for Installation

### **Select Literature**

Sato, Oki. *nendo in the box*. Japan: ADP Co Ltd, 2014.

nendo. *nendo 10/10*. Germany: Die Gestalten Verlag, 2013.

Sato, Oki. *nendo Ghost Shadows*. Japan: ADP Co Ltd, 2013.

*The State of Things. Design and the 21st Century*. Israel: Design Museum Holon, 2010.

Thomas, Amanda and Yasue Miyagi, Eds. *nendo*. Cologne: daab, 2008.

21\_21 Design Sight. *XXIst Century Man*. Japan: 21\_21 Design Sight, 2008.

Klantern, Robert, Sophie Lovell and Birga Meyer. *Furnish: Furniture and Interior Design for the 21st Century*. Berlin: Die Gestalten, 2007.

### **Press**

#### **2022**

Sofia Lekka Angelopoulou, "Video highlights Oki Sato's collaboration with local artisans on 'nendo sees kyoto' exhibition," *designboom*, May 15, 2022.

#### **2021**

Danielle Demetriou, "Nendo's Oki Sato on challenges, new talent, and 'taking the difficult way'," *Wallpaper\**, September 17, 2021.

Tom Ravenscroft, "Nendo creates spherical Olympic cauldron with hydrogen flame," *Dezeen*, July 26, 2021.

Cajsa Carlson, "Nendo presents inside-out Hyouri lanterns at virtual Life in Vogue exhibition," *Dezeen*, April 14, 2021.

#### **2020**

Natasha Levy, "Steel and concrete steps cut through façade of Stairway House by Nendo," *Dezeen*, April 3, 2020.

#### **2018**

"Watercolours," *Elle Decoration*, September 2018.

"Around the World," *Elle Decoration China*, July 2018.

Pearl Fontaine, "Friedman Benda presents nendo's dreamy Watercolour collection," *Whitewall*, June 14, 2018.

Marina Hemonet, "Le meilleur de Design Miami/Basel 2018," *Architectural Digest France*, June 12, 2018.

Rab Messina, "nendo's Watercolour on Metal," *TL Magazine*, June 7, 2018.

Nina Azzarello, "Nendo's watercolor collection mimics paint on paper, bleeding delicate blue hues," *designboom*, June 5, 2018.

## **2017**

"Centre of Innovation and Design opens exhibition of works by Japanese collective nendo," *Artdaily*, May 31, 2017.

Stefano Annovazzi Lodi, "Nendo's Invisible Lines at Jil Sander Showroom," *Elle Décor Italia*, April 7, 2017.

Natalie Shirinian, "10 Things to See During Salone del Mobile Milan Design Week 2017," *Vogue*, April 5, 2017.

Tim McKeough, "The Philadelphia Museum of Art Highlights Three Rising Design Stars," *1st Dibs: Introspective Magazine*, January 23, 2017.

## **2016**

Stefanie Waldek, "The 8 Art Shows You Need to See in NYC This Fall," *Architectural Digest*, September 19, 2016.

Lisa Contag, "Character Studies: Nendo's '50 Manga Chairs on Show at Friedman Benda in New York," *Blouin Artinfo*, September 12, 2016.

Diane Solway, "On the Radar," *W Magazine*, September 2016.

Beth Dunlop, "When is a Chair not a Chair?," *Modern*, Fall 2016.

"Milan Portfolio," *Vogue Living Australia*, July/August 2016.

Katy Donoghue, "Designs 'Collective Influence' Installation," *Whitewaller*, 2016.

Laura Maggi, "Oki Sato Thinks Outside the Box at Israel's Holon Design Museum," *Blouin Artinfo*, June 12, 2016.

Paul Laster, "What Not to Miss at Collective Design This Weekend," *Observer Culture*, May 6, 2016.

Yuka Yoneda, "Nendo's Trace collection of cabinets and lights look like line drawings come to life," *inhabitat*, May 5, 2016.

Sarah Hucal, "Designer Oki Sato of Nendo Blurs Line Between Furniture and Art." *Curbed*, April 19, 2016.

Jay Cheshes, "Minimalist Master: Nendo Studio's Oki Sato." *The Wall Street Journal*, April 19, 2016.

"Manga Chairs by Nenda at Isaloni 2016," *Coveted*, April 18, 2016.

Meg Busacca, "Milan Design Week 2016 Day Four Highlights: Friedman Benda, Cos, Lee Broom And More." *Fashion Times*, April 18, 2016.

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

"Nendo Presents 50 Manga Chairs in Milanese Cloister Courtyard." *Dezeen*, April 13, 2016.

Mio Yamada, "Our picks from Salone del Mobile Milano," *The Japan Times*, April 12, 2016.

Ludovica Amodeo Grabau, "Salone del Mobile Milan 2016: 50 Manga Chairs," *The Italian Eye Magazine*, April 11, 2016.

Daniella Ohad, "50 Manga Chairs." *Daniella on Design*, March 20, 2016.

Hollie Smith, "NENDO designs 50 chairs for Friedman Benda Influenced by Manga Comics." *Designboom*, March 16, 2016.

Marco Valenti, "50 Manga-Inspired Chairs By Nendo," *Elle*, March 31, 2016.

"Salone del Mobile 2016." *Wallpaper*, March 30, 2016.

"Behind the Design: Nendo's Trace Collection for Collective Design," *Interior Design*, Spring 2016.

Katy Donoghue, "Frieze New York 2016: Nendo Designs 'Collective Influence' Installation" *Whitewaller*, 2016.

## **2015**

"Power 200," *Wallpaper*, October 12, 2015.

Euan McKirdy, "Playful head of design house Nendo: Why Minimalism isn't enough," *CNN Style*, September 19, 2015.

Matthew Ponsfor, "Nendo: The Japanese studio making design fun again," *CNN Style*, August 5, 2015.

## **2014**

Dan Rubinstein, "Oki Sato: Less is More—More or Less," *Departures*, Fall 2014.

## **2013**



Ambra Medda, "Nendo: 10/10," *L'Arco Baleno*, August 12, 2013.

## 2012

Kelsey Campbell-Dollaghan, "Nendo's New Furniture Finds Beauty in Splintered Wood," *Co. Design*, December 12, 2012.

"Nendo: Mimicry Chairs," *Domusweb.it*, June 4, 2012.

Eleanor H. Gustafson, "The High Road," *Modern Magazine*, Spring 2012.

Helen Kirwan-Taylor, "Splish, Splash, Taking to the Bath," *Wall Street Journal*, April 27, 2012.

Alice Rawsthorn, "Japanese Design Group Nendo Hones Its Unusual Charms," *New York Times*, January 29, 2012.

Pilar Viladis, "Milan Report," *New York Times*, April 24, 2012.

*Wallpaper\**. "Design Awards 2012," February 2012.

Janelle Zara, "Phillips de Pury Coronates the "Triumvirate" of Witty Contemporary Design at Its New York Shop Space," *Artinfo.com*, June 22, 2012.

## 2011

Andrew Braithwaite, "The Unbelievable Lightness of Nendo," *Azure*, November/December 2011.

"10 Days 10 Shelves by Nendo @ Carpenters Workshop Gallery," *FRAME*, October 13, 2011.

"Nendo Launches 'Scatter Shelf' Display Unit," *WIDN*, September 20, 2011.

"Scatter Shelf by Nendo," *Dezeen*, September 17, 2011.

"Nendo Exhibit Celebrates Visual Deception," *Co.Design*, September 2011.

"Scatter Shelf by Nendo," *FRAME*, August 29, 2011.

"Nendo's Wondrous Shelf is a Kaleidoscope That Holds Books," *Co. Design*, August, 2011.

Susan Stamberg, "Form and Function Meet in 'Modern by Design,'" *NPR*, July 28, 2011.

Jennifer Olshin, "Making Conversations," *Modern Magazine*, Spring, 2011.

"nendo: Visible Structures at the High Museum of Art," *designboom*, April 2011.

"High Commissions Two Iconic Designers for Exhibition Opening in June," *Artdaily.org*, April 12, 2011.

**2010**

"The Judges Awards: The Nominees. Furniture Designer of the Year," *Wallpaper*, Design Awards 2010.

**2009**

Cathelijne Nuijsink, "Ghost Stories," *Frame*, July-August 2009.

Rose Etherington, "Ghost Stories by nendo at Friedman Benda Gallery," *DeZeen* Design Magazine, February 13, 2009.

N. Rain Noe, "Nendo Design and Oki Sato's Aha! Moment," *Theme*, Issue 17, 2009.

"nendo: ghost stories," *designboom*, February 13, 2009.

"Ghost Stories: New Designs from Nendo at MAD," *Dezeen*, November 13, 2009.

**2008**

Nick Dent, "¡ Moments," *Pol Oxygen*, Issue 28, 2008.

"Formbar wie To," *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, December 15, 2008.

Merel Kokhuis, "Mr. Smiley and Friends," *Frame*, September/October, 2008.

Catherine Nuijsink, "Technique: Cabbage Chair for Issey Miyake," *Frame*, September/October, 2008.

Masaaki Takahashi, "Tradition: Office for Nendo," *Frame*, September/October, 2008.

Marisa Bartolucci, "Office Product: nendo," *Fulcrum*, Vol. 1, Issue 1, June, 2008.

Gordon Kanky Knight, "Nendo: Rich Sitings," *Wallpaper*, May 2008.