

the  
Small  
Chair  
Collection  
inventory



The Small Chair Collection has been donated by artist Carmen Gray to the Office for Small Decision Making in June of 2022.

The only condition given by artist Carmen Gray to the OfSDM is the following: *“Each small chair will be scattered amongst clients and Office members at the occasion of the office’s dissolution through an auction of favours.”*

This catalogue is an introduction to the Small Chair Collection and a way to discover Carmen Gray’s motivation to collect said collection.



*So my thing with the little chairs actually started with a tower - Torrente tower, my mum and my pocket. Or I should really say, my mum in my pocket: I know, it must sound weird!*

*The thing is when I was a kid there was a time when I was extremely scared about being away from my mum. Sometimes I didn't want to go to school, or just anywhere without her. To convince me that everything was OK my mum used to tell me that she would come along with me all the time, that she would shrink down to a tiny size and fit in my pocket.*

*On the Torrente tower day (Torrente was the nearest town to the house-in-the-middle-of-nowhere where we used to live) my mum just happened to see me on a school daytrip with my class. She was doing the groceries in the market, just where the tower is. She saw all of us, climbing the steps, getting to the top, I guess, smiling to herself.*

*She saw me and didn't say anything, but the next time that I tried to hide behind her skirt to avoid going to school, she said once more: Darling, it's all right, nothing bad will happen to you, don't you remember that I can become smaller and get in your pocket? Like the day you climbed Torrente tower with your class (and then she started describing the trip, going into all sorts of details, so much so that I got terrified) in which you were going up and down the steps, and you were putting your hand in and out of your pocket twisting me all upside down! Screwing up the entrance ticket and the foil of the sweets you were slyly eating.*

*When she told me that it made such an impact on me that I trusted her completely, without even questioning anything. Then I really believed that whenever I was scared my mum was with me, tiny as a mouse, there in my pocket. I started acknowledging her, being highly aware of my chubby little hand every time I put it in my pocket, careful not to crush her.*

*I don't know how many years I spent putting my hand in my pocket as if it were shallow, as if I were holding it up. Always really carefully and in slow motion.*

*Since I was a kid I would also see my mum using my little chairs to sit in the living room, in the garden, to cut green beans before dinner, to read, to put on cream after swimming, to watch TV. I am not sure why but since then I have always thought of these two things together.*

*Over the last ten years I have lived in four different countries. I have had four phone numbers, a million different addresses, bank accounts, transport cards, health insurance cards. I have moved so many times that I could not give sentimental value to my belongings or gather more objects (that was a very restrictive limitation considering how I like collecting stuff). Furniture, books, plants: the only thing I used to allow myself were posters (that I could roll up in a tube), postcards, or anything else I could fold and fit in a suitcase.*

*When I moved in with Hugo in Amsterdam Noord and saw all the furniture he had, I thought, well OK, I could maybe have just a small chair in the living room.*

*That small chair and my bedside table were my only two pieces of furniture. Apart from the clothes and the plants and photos and frames. The only two pieces of furniture with which I left, with which I arrived at the next house when I moved.*

*Well that's how, more or less before the pandemic started and time stopped, I decided that when I saw a small chair that I liked I would take it to the studio and include it in my collection, and that would remind me of the tower in Torrent, of putting my hands in my pocket so very carefully, of my mum, and the fantasy she was able to pass on to me.*

*About the Small Chair Collection  
by Carmen Gray, 2022*

# 2019



#1 *Berta*  
35×66,5cm  
4kg  
Antwerp furniture shop give away



#3 *Bedroom Drum*  
41,5×43,5cm  
1,1kg  
Gift from Hugo



#2 *Dolphin Love*  
23,5×41,5cm  
1,5kg  
Gift from Alex













#4 *Gummy Red*  
25×50cm  
1,5kg  
Gift from Maureen



#6 *Ethio Chair*  
27×57cm  
1,3kg  
Street find



#5 *Olga's*  
32×62cm  
3,3kg  
Kringloop Noord



#7 *Balcony Flip*  
56×33cm  
3,3kg  
Street find









#8 *Vacas Campos*  
26,3×49,5cm  
1,7kg  
Gift from Mislav



#10 *La hija bastarda*  
27×57cm  
2,6kg  
Exchange with Filip



#9 *Burgundy diamond*  
32,5×60cm  
3,5kg  
Kringloop Noord



#11 *Comodín*  
30×53cm  
1,9kg  
Not clear

# 2021



#12 *Monday afternoon*  
32,5×71cm  
5,1kg  
Kringloop Noord



#14 *Mapu*  
25×49,3cm  
1,2kg  
Not clear about the origin of this one.  
Happened to be next to Carmen's door for  
more than a year.



#13 *Turquoise Thee*  
30,2×57cm  
3,5kg  
Street find















# 2022



#15 *Pop Reverse*  
30×57cm  
2kg  
Rataplan Diemen



#17 *Little Pant*  
27,3×56cm  
2,2kg  
Kringloop Noord



#16 *Amarillo*  
27×54cm  
2,7kg  
Second hand shop



#18 *Orphan's lament*  
3×53cm  
0,9kg  
Street find with Gers





#19 *Pitufo*  
39×66cm  
1,9kg  
Gift from Alex



#21 *Babette*  
61×35cm  
3,6 kg  
Mariana's find



#20 *Núvol 2*  
50×28,5cm  
2,1kg  
Gift from Alex



#22 *White Bird*  
26,8×47,5cm  
1,6kg  
Gift from Lorenzo



# 2022



#23 *Esmeralda*  
34×51 cm  
1,6kg  
Gift from Alex



#25 *Wild Puppy*  
37×51 cm  
2,5kg  
Unknown



#24 *Foresti*  
35,3×60,5 cm  
3,8kg  
Gift from Alex



#26 *Robin*  
40×57cm  
3,9 kg  
Unknown





#27 Marko  
67×37,5cm  
3,8kg  
Alex's gift



#28 Prolet  
42×67 cm  
6kg  
Unknown











The Office for Small Decision Making  
(OfSDM) presents

the Small Chair Collection inventory,  
a collection by Carmen Gray

Exhibition with  
Mariana Jurado Rico  
in collaboration with  
Carmen Gray,  
Gersande Schellinx,  
and Nicolás Vizcaíno Sanchez

Catalogue designed by Gersande Schellinx  
Pictures by Carmen Gray

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