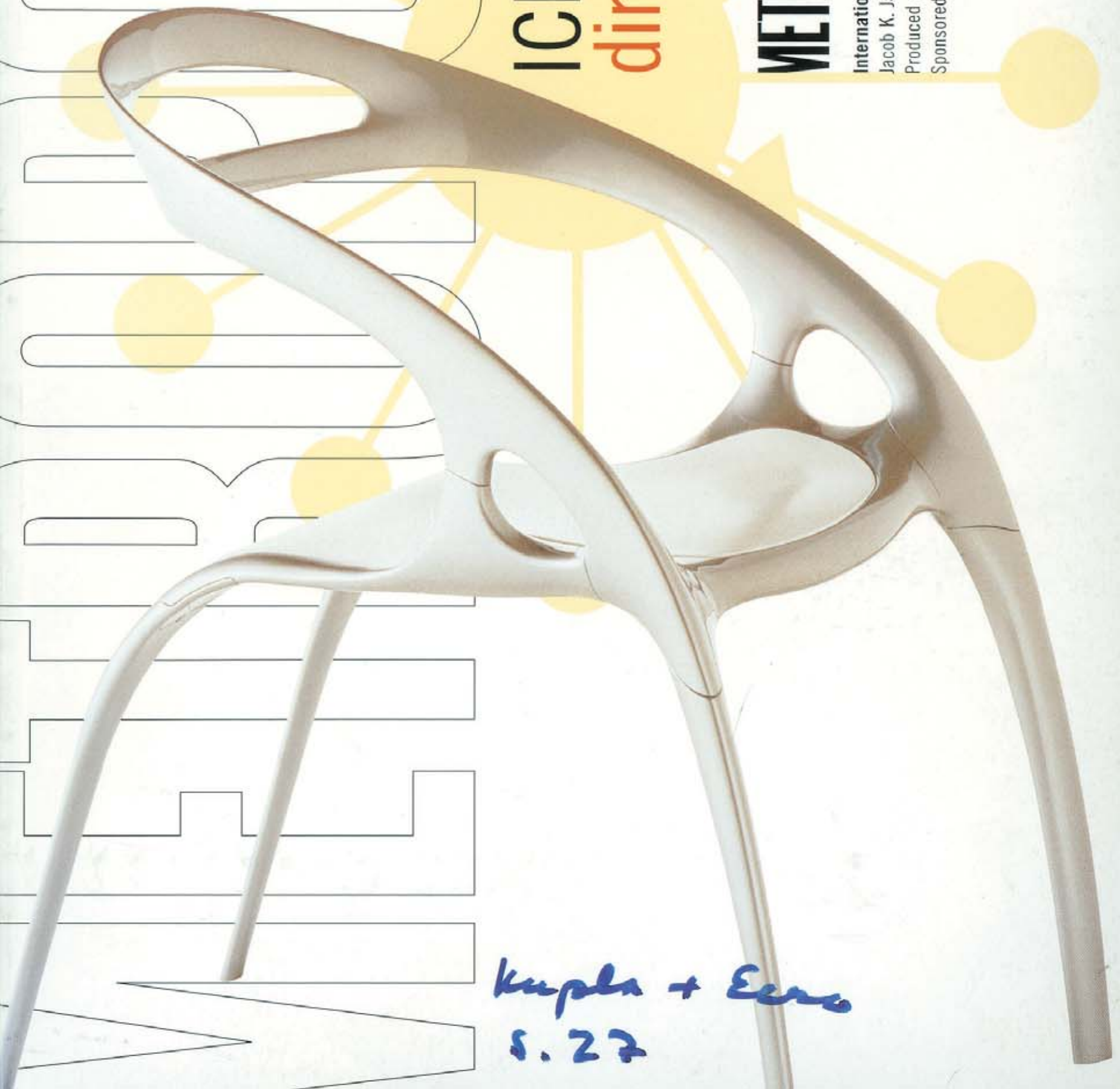


NEW YORK

ICFF 2001 directory

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Kupala + Eero
S. 27



As a product developer for the Franke Corporation, an enormous Swiss company that produces domestic and industrial sinks, **Bruno Meeus** spent ten years designing for clients like McDonald's. In 1995 Meeus left Franke to work independently producing stainless-steel furniture for large kitchenware companies. This sink, which Meeus calls "**Lavabeau**" as a pun on the French words for *sink* (lavabo) and *beautiful* (beau), is intended for the bathroom. Meeus describes it as a "clean and sober element" that can fit into a variety of settings, indoor and outdoor. "The Lavabeau is the first product I've made that is easy to export, so I saw it as a unique opportunity to show at the ICFF," Meeus says. He is exhibiting with ten other designers organized by the **Flanders Export Promotion Agency**, in association with the Belgian government. "This is an opportunity to get the feedback of a completely different culture about the products I make," says Meeus of his first American show.

<<http://users.pandora.be/bruno.meeus/>>

This page, left top and bottom: courtesy Bruno Meeus



Sixty-nine-year-old **Eero Aarnio** stood out among his Finnish contemporaries in the 1960s for making playful Pop designs from synthetics while others stuck with the natural materials and organic forms that put Finland on the map in the 1940s and 1950s. The Ball chair (1962), which made him famous, was followed by other iconic pieces, such as the Pastil armchair (1967), the **Bubble Chair** (1968), and the Tomato chair (1971). Aarnio has worked continuously in Europe, designing office chairs for Martela and EFG, and door and furniture handles for Valli & Valli, among other things. The spirit of his work hasn't changed. "My fiberglass, acrylic, or cold-foamed designs get people to laugh and remember the best time of their lives—childhood. They will grow younger as they rediscover how funny and exciting it is in to crawl in a hole (Ball), to move around by rocking (Pastil, which doubles as a float or sled), to swing (Bubble), or just ride (Pony, 1973)," Aarnio says. His work is still as fresh today as it was in the 1960s, according to Michael Manes, president of **M2L Inc.** "We really wanted to bring Aarnio to the ICFE," Manes says, "because he's one of the pioneers and he's still designing."



<www.m2lcollection.com>