THOMAS HEATHERWICK’S SPUN CHAIR

FAST FACTS

Design
Thomas Heatherwick (b. 1970, London)

First Introduced
2010, at the Salone del Mobile in Milan, Italy

Construction
Rotational-molded polyethylene—in other words, a type of plastic that is poured into a mold, melted, and spun around by a machine

Weight
About 30 pounds

Symmetrical means that if the object were cut in half, both sides would match.

THOMAS HEATHERWICK

Heatherwick spent his childhood making things and taking things apart, like typewriters and cameras. After studying art and design he opened his own studio in 1994. It now has a team of over 250 architects, designers, and makers—or, as he calls them, “problem solvers.”

Heatherwick’s design process begins by asking a question, then attempting to solve it. His design of the Spun Chair started with these questions: Can a symmetrical object that spins also be a chair? If so, would it be comfortable to sit in?

Do you think Heatherwick succeeded in creating a comfortable chair that spins?

ACTIVITIES TO TRY

Solo
While taking a spin, see how many things you notice in the world above you. Call them out as you find them!

Duo
Pick a pose to spin in while your partner watches, then have your partner mirror the pose. Now switch!

Group
A sculpture, a chair, or both? Cast your votes on paper to find out which opinion got the most votes.

NOTE ABOUT SAFETY

The Spun Chair is designed for one person to sit in at a time.

While spinning, make sure your friends are a safe distance away.

Spin with care. If you spin too fast, the chair might tip over.

HAMMER MUSEUM
10899 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles CA 90024
hammer.ucla.edu
@hammer_museum