

# Our Rattan Frames

Congratulations on your purchase of our original hand-made rattan frames.

The frames we designed and commissioned are manufactured exclusively for us by a small family owned furniture manufacturing facility in Cebu, The Philippines. Rattan is a sustainable product that supports thousands of families throughout the rainforest regions of South East Asia. A vine-like Palm, *daemonorops draco*, requires forest cover and support in order to thrive. It can meander through the jungle for over a quarter of a mile (imagine 14 football fields laid end to end and you get an idea of this miracle plants phenomenal growth capability). Its trunk can span a diameter of over two inches down to the thickness of a human hair. The entire collecting process, though labor intensive, can be performed by hand with a simple machete. The rattan vine cannot survive without the forest but it quickly regenerates and this method of harvesting actually protects the old growth from modern, heavy equipment harvesting procedures which ultimately would destroy the entire forest. The rattan industry is so eco-friendly that one of the highest populations of orang-utan in Borneo is in a rattan estate and over half the wild species of orang-utans have been recorded as occurring wild within the boundaries of another rattan estate.

Because of its natural pliability rattan has long been a favored choice for furniture makers since the Victorian era. Its exotic appeal, along with its lightweight qualities made a refreshing counterpoint to the dark and heavy furniture of that era. The durability of rattan is illustrated by the regularity with which Victorian period rattan furniture surfaces at estate and auction sales.

Because rattan is an all natural product, and because our frames are hand made, there will be variables in size, color, contour, weave, weight and form. This illustrates their individual character. If you compare seemingly identical frames you will discover that like snowflakes, each one is unique. The subtle variances in form and shape validate each frame's uniqueness. They are not mass-produced machine-made products from Wal-Mart. They are a superior quality hand-made product designed for art aficionados with discriminating taste.

May your purchase afford you many years of satisfaction with our frames, which were made with care and pride, by a family business half a world away.

We thank you for your purchase.

Sincerely,



Charlene Walker (President)



*Rattan Trimming*

Lahaina Printsellers, Ltd.

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