# the outlaw

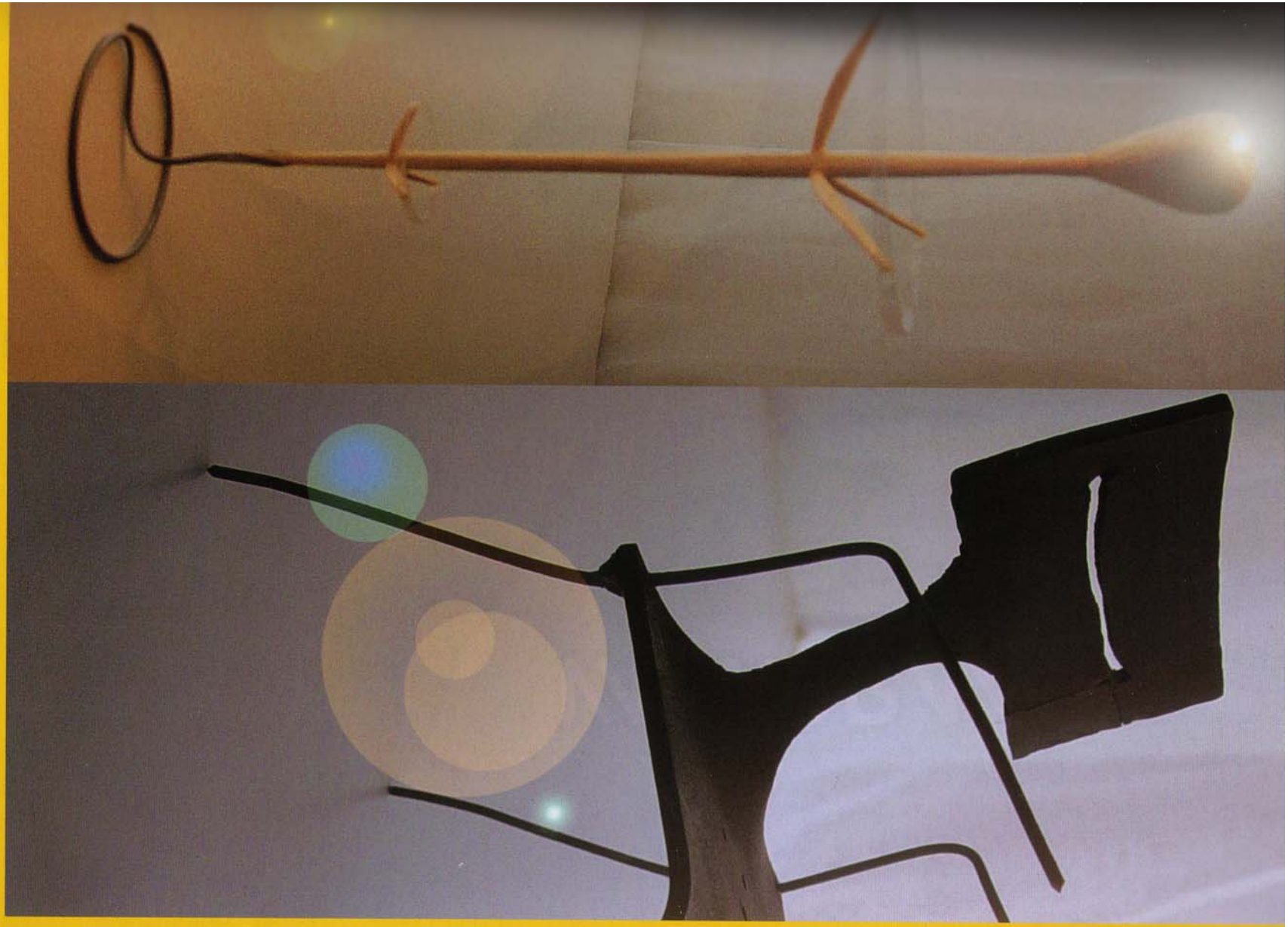
## johnny chamaki's predilection for mother nature

All the signs are there that Johnny Chamaki is hovering above the threshold of fame. His highly sculptural DragonFly seat is inspired by the fragile wing of a dragonfly (the skeleton of a dried leaf also springs to mind). It goes without saying that Chamaki's number one muse is Mother Nature. Throughout all of his creations is an awareness of life, whether it's in the boney Dr. Morphous, the skeletal DragonFly seat or the fluid motion of the Airborne lounge. His ability to pick up on details and incorporate them into his work is an intrinsic part of his design.

Chamaki's most profound work however is his Outlaw Chair, which depicts the silhouette of the world's most infamous Australian bushranger, Ned Kelly (recently bought back to life in the popular Peter Carey novel, *True History of the Kelly Gang*). The Outlaw Chair combines practicality with considered design features resembling Kelly's gun battles: the chair's crude steel arms give the impression of a gun being fired off, while the three holes in the seat depict the bullet holes in Kelly's armor which he received in his final shoot-out at the Glenrowan Post Office (they also make the chair easy to move).

Having completed his bachelor studies in architecture at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) in 1996, Chamaki went on to do a short course in welding and entered his designs in national and international competitions. With encouraging results, he established his own design studio, focusing on furniture, objects, interior and architecture. "When I design, I try to combine elements of art, history, science and technology," says Chamaki, "as well as aim for a timeless quality that will hopefully be appreciated for years to come." *GB*

http://members.austarmetro.com.au/~chamaki



Previous page, clockwise from top: the Airborne Lounge is a chaise inspired from the ocean, made of polycarbonate with steel legs; the sensual MyRug with back support, made of Australian wool and acrylic plastic; the DragonFly seat is based entirely on insects, plants and prehistoric bones, made of polycarbonate and hardwood. This page, left to right: Dr Morphous coat, hat and umbrella stand; the crude version of the Outlaw Chair, made of recycled mild steel and plywood.