

Tanor Project

Taking part in this project holds a very special meaning for me. I grew up with the experience of having a tandoor (tanor in Kurdish) in our home, or a shared tandoor used by many families in the community. It's a unique and rewarding tradition—one that can only truly be understood by being there and physically experiencing it. The warmth, the smell, and the sense of togetherness are all elements that make it so meaningful.

Some of my most vivid memories of the tandoor are from my childhood back home, in Kurdistan, waking up to the smell of fresh bread baked by my mother. The memory of the heat from the fire, and the smoke of the wood burning. The Bread is unique among foods—simple to make, rich with meaning that goes far beyond its nutritional value. There are many layers to this, but I believe one thing we all share as humans is bread. No matter where we come from, a war-torn Aleppo, any Village/town or New York: bread is a food that connects us all, each with our own unique stories tied to it. Making bread is the start for a dialogue and collaboration, and it's an essential part for celebrations.

As a physical space, the tanor in Kurdish culture has very important meaning for women, providing a secure and welcoming environment where they can gather and engage in a long and meaningful conversations. If it's not a privet one: the tanor, often situated in a central or communal area, it is more than just a cooking device (place); it has been a space of social gathering. In this intimate setting, women could retreat from the demands and constraints, It is a place where they could speak freely, share their thoughts, and discuss personal and communal matters without the worry of being overheard by "others". The tanor baking and cooking is a backdrop for laughter and storytelling, allowing women to make jokes, share experiences, and enjoy each other's company in a relaxed atmosphere. Beyond its practical use, the tanor symbolized a space of trust and solidarity. It fostered a sense of community and connection, where women could bond over shared experiences and support one another.

As an artist, I am deeply interested in creating opportunities that bring people together. My work often revolves around stories and memories, particularly in relation to the concept of home. With this project here in Sweden my second home, I hope we could make a space where meaningful conversations can take place and where people can connect. Creating a space where we can share and reflect on our memories and experiences. A place for connection, inviting people to gather, share stories, make food have fun and maybe engage in dialogue about what "home" means to us.

Let's agree on one thing: we all have bread in common. A starting point for connections and making changes.

Best
Behjat
Sep 2024