

building bricks for communal healing

Silvi Naçi

Silvi Naçi is an artist and writer working between Albania and Los Angeles. Their interest lies in the subtle and violent ways decolonization and migration affect and reshape a people, language, and gender identity as well as social and cultural dynamics.

building bricks for communal healing began in 2016 during the US presidential election. I sat with friends in the studio drinking tea, trying to make sense of the nonsense happening around us and understanding the effects this election would have on us, on queer, immigrant, Black, people of color, and all marginalized bodies. During this time, I was going through archived family photographs and noticed my parents' army backpacks. In a trance in the studio, I began folding the used tea bags into similar forms—small army backpacks. The work continues in collaboration with the Albanian and immigrant community in Boston, and currently in Los Angeles, where I reside. This work offers space to think collectively about immigration, belonging, and queer-femme national identity while reading and dissecting important feminist texts together, drinking tea, and making the tea bags into bricks—a form that dates back to 7000 BC as one of the oldest building materials. As the work grows, I will continue to host reading-making-drinking tea gatherings as creative interventions in various spaces to bridge the gaps that this nation has built to separate us, and make our own healing space.

