



# MOSAIC OF HOME-MAKING

Krishan Rajapakshe | Bino Byansi Byakuleka

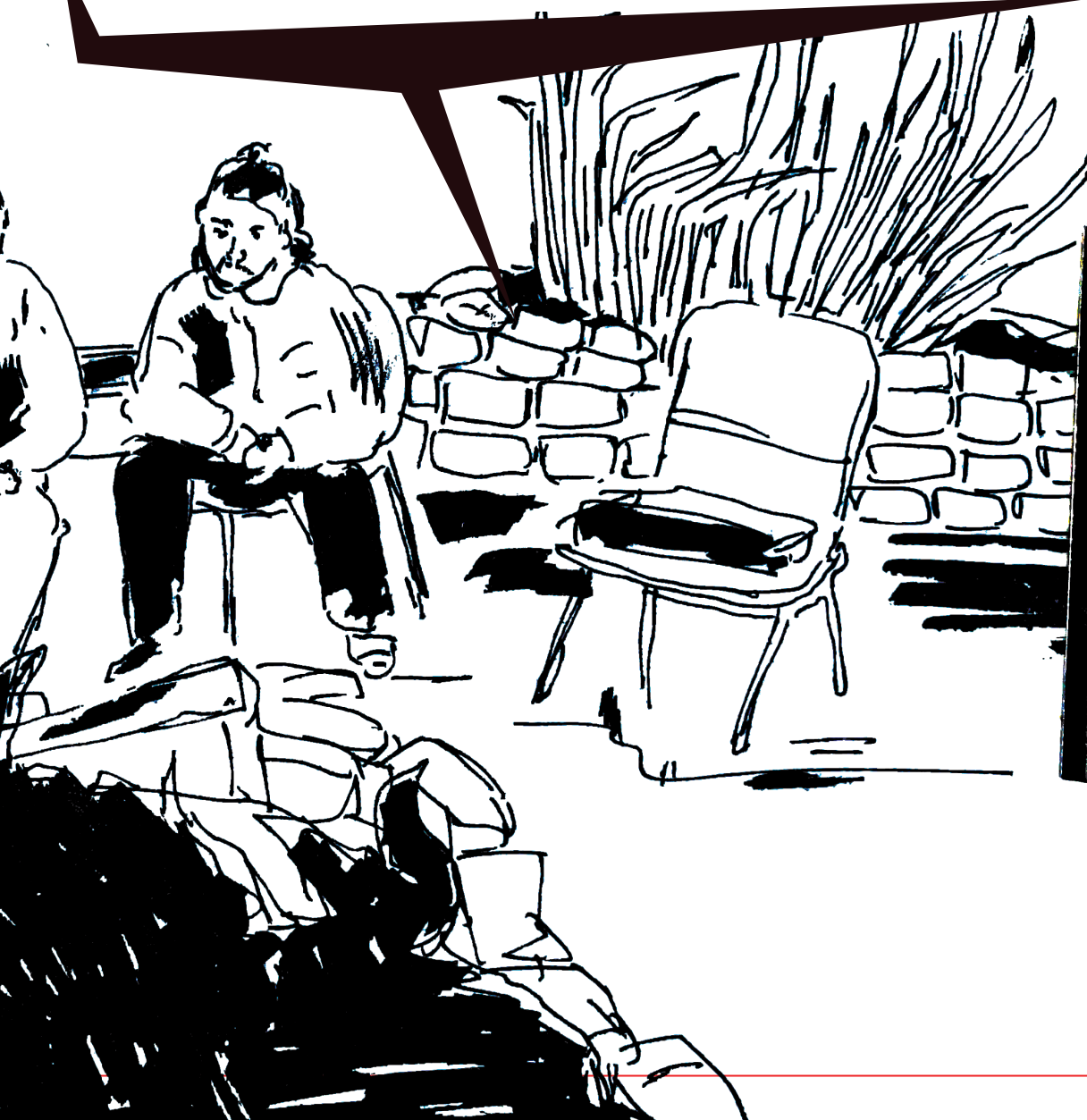
HOW TO  
MAKE  
HOME  
CAN  
MIS? WE DO  
HOMES  
EAT



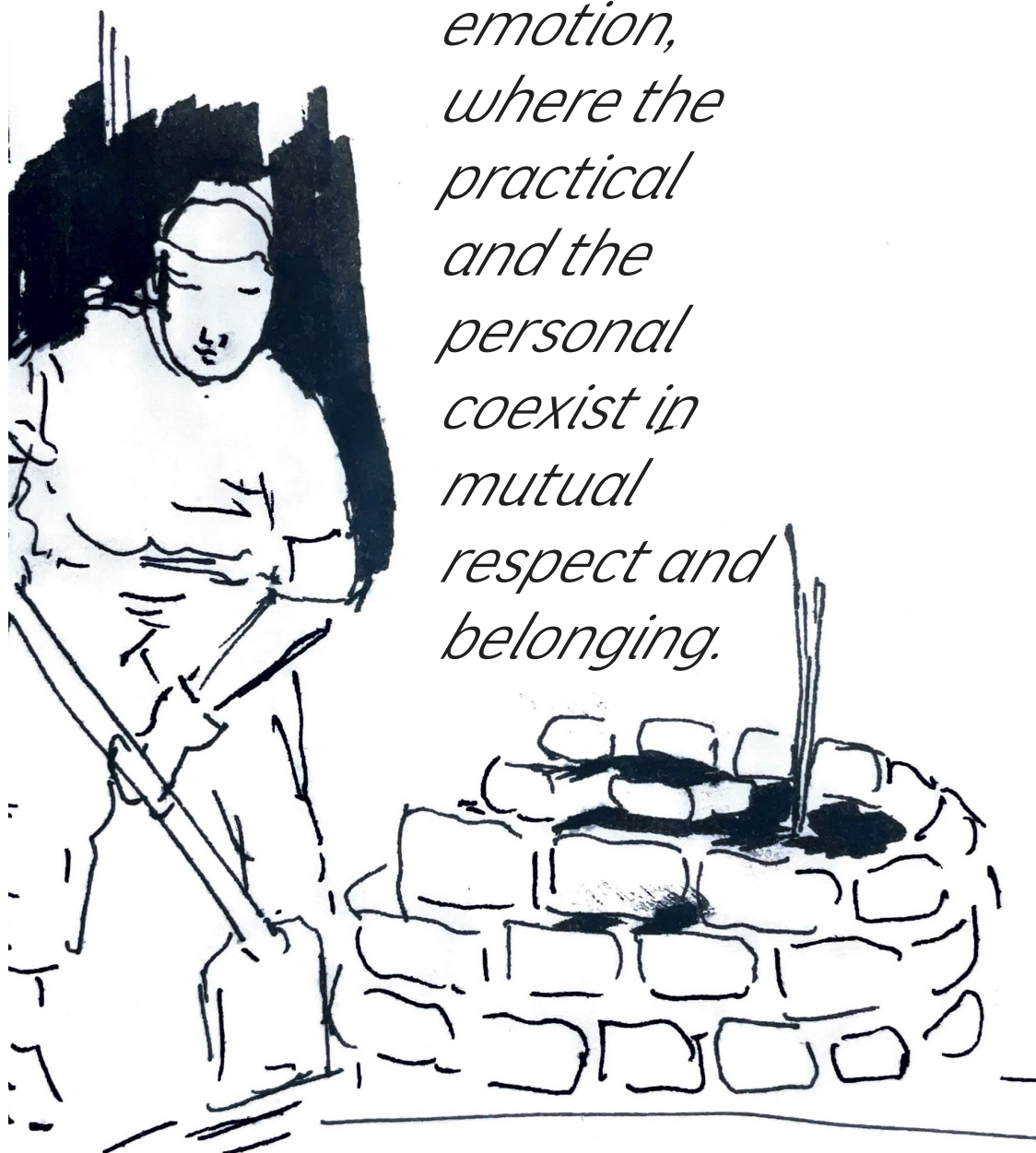


A place for the neighbourhood where you can meet other people, where you can start things, where you can grow things, where you can sit next to the fire and have a good time, meet people, and maybe meet people you wouldn't otherwise meet.  
Wow, that sounds really great. How did you get here?  
How did you get to know this place? How do you own it? I'd love to own it, but we're here next to the thetempelhof feld. It is about 5 minutes from the Südsterne underground train station.

It's really amazing to see you here, busy at Neighborhood Garden. So, how did you come here? How did I come here? Aha, this is a garden for all neighbours and I found it with my friend Tim. and I like this garden being here.



*home is a  
space of  
balance and  
emotion,  
where the  
practical  
and the  
personal  
coexist in  
mutual  
respect and  
belonging.*



come all about  
community time...  
meeting. talking  
imagining -

Neighborhood garden is  
about meeting people  
they can be new or  
might you know

But space → some time  
Food music → lots of talk  
allow to people

Feel home.



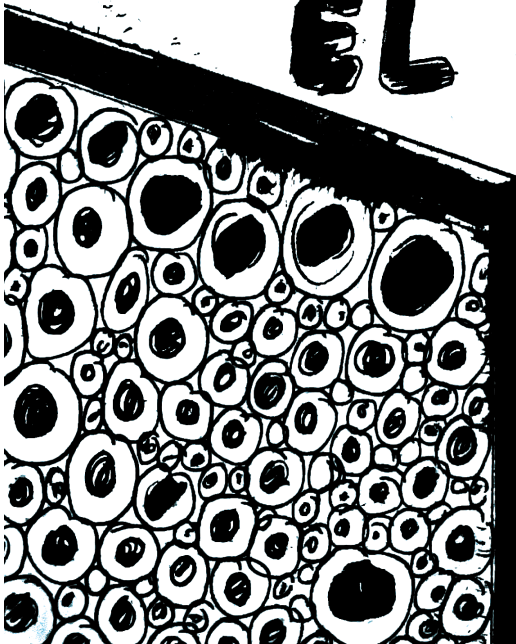




PLACE  
Meet  
People



FEESNOT  
EL

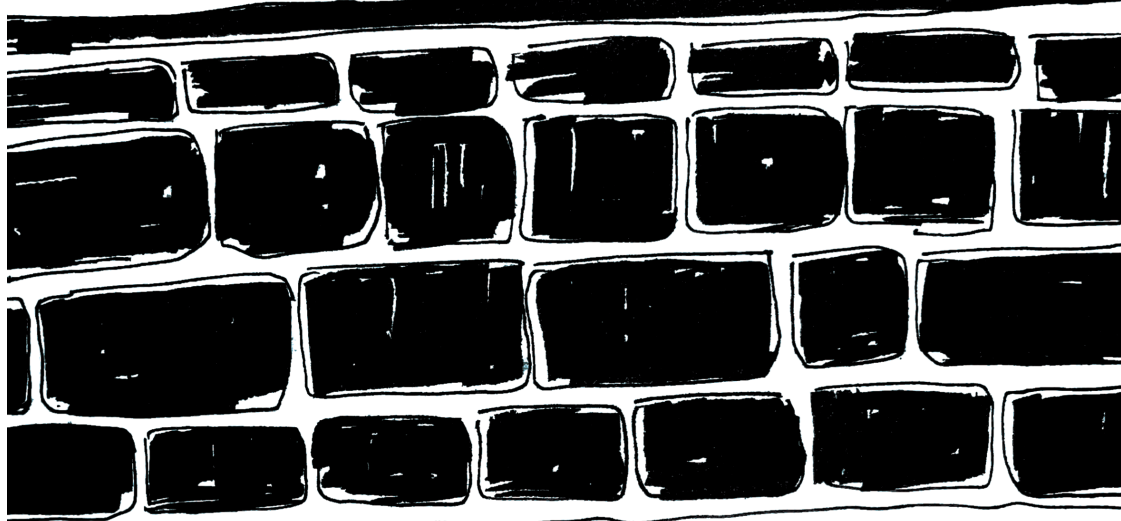




We have compost. That's very good to know. We have warm compost.



We build  
our own  
toilet.



Most of the time they're wild birds. And when we're here in March, it's crazy. There are hundreds of insects flying in front of this insect hotel. And they're trying to find the right cave. And it takes forever. And we built this with our own hands.



And it's just really relaxing to watch. It's even better than watching TV. And it's outside, in nature.

I think it's important to emphasise something: we are living in a fragmented socio-political landscape. Everyone is pursuing their own paths, and it's increasingly difficult to find common ground. Economically, as prices rise, the spaces where we used to come together are becoming unaffordable or are being closed down, making it harder to gather as a community.

In fact, today, even the simple acts of sharing food and spending time together have become revolutionary. Though seemingly small, these gatherings suggest that in times like these, coming together may be our only way to overcome society's growing difficulties.

## *We need to talk.*

We need to learn how to coexist with our differences. In a city like Berlin, where hundreds of cultures converge, we won't agree on everything, yet we can coexist. To do this, we must remove the suspicions we hold about each other. When there is distrust in society—fears that my neighbour, for instance, might harm me, or vice versa—it creates social wounds and pushes us further apart.

Our artistic practice reflects this need for connection, aiming to bring people together to learn from each other. We sit together, we listen, and we learn about each other's cultures, even down to something as simple as a dish like Turkish pizza. Through these interactions, we develop sensitivity and empathy towards each other, which is essential because insensitivity breeds harm. By sharing these experiences, we cultivate respect and understanding.

Even on a cold Saturday night, a group of people gathered around a fire becomes a revolutionary act, a movement of connection. In an age where everything seems to discourage us from coming together, this act of uniting becomes a deeply meaningful expression of social life. I want to emphasise that this isn't about seeing the world in black and white. Amid all the struggles, the wars, the rent crises, and the pandemic, many have forgotten how to connect. Relearning these social skills—getting out, meeting others, and accepting mistakes—has become essential. As was said, it's about finding ways to coexist alongside each other.

We shouldn't view society as a monolith. The diversity of beliefs, systems, and classes is what brings vibrancy. But we must also create channels for discussion and solidarity, especially with those in need. That's what truly matters. You're absolutely right.

talk talk talk.. talk talk talk..  
talk talk talk.. talk talk talk..  
talk talk talk.. talk talk talk..



*"I've lived here in Berlin for over 40 years, and it's become part of who I am. I've watched it change, grown with it, and built my life here. This city isn't just where I live—it's my home in every sense. I am, and always will be, a Berliner."*





*Making  
Home*

*Memories*

*Leaving  
Home*

*Time Travels*

*food*

*Family histories*



It's a safe place where you can come back. And at any time, every day, not just here in the neighbourhood garden, but in all other places in Kreuzberg and Friedrichshain. So amazing.



We built our pizza oven with our hands and support from the neighbourhood.

You can just come here. We have everything here. And you can get your hands dirty. And have a good time. And in the end, we worked on everything together. And we cook here.

That was great. I think it's about connecting and meeting people and bringing them together and spreading the word. Yeah, that's great.



We talk about nature and how important it is to spend time in nature. We build a hotel for insects. We have special food here.

We have compost. That's very good to know. We have warm compost.

We build our own toilet. It's like a composting toilet. We built our pizza oven with our hands and support from the neighbour-

hood.

We have a lighter. And we have a small tent where we store everything, like tools, pots and pans.

You can just come here. We have everything here. And you can get your hands dirty And just have a good time. And in the end, we worked on everything together. And we cook here.

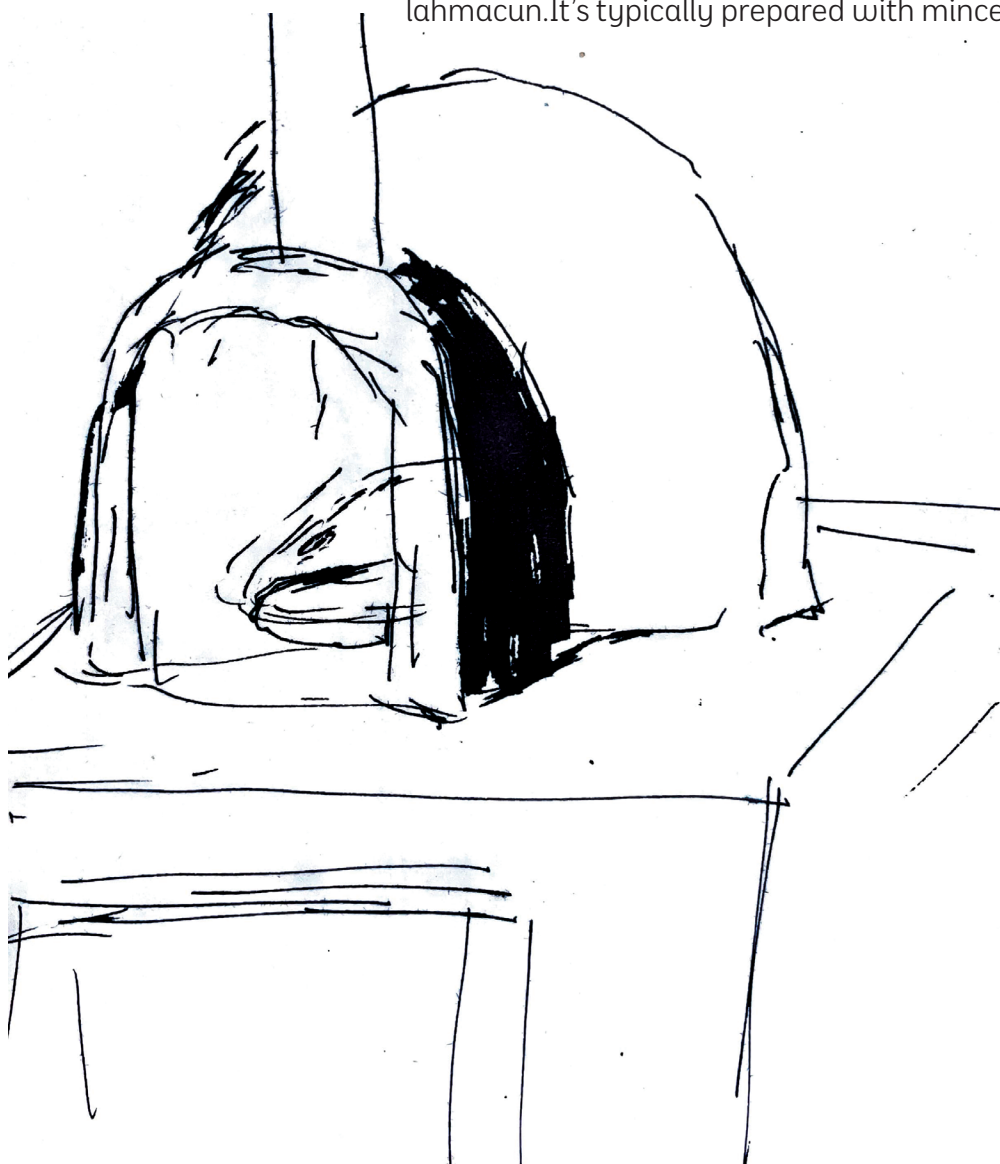


"So, what do you mostly do? Cooking for everyone, teaching, or perhaps taking care of the insects?"

"Normally, I'm a teacher. But here, we're all cooking for each other—in the garden, in houses, in neighbourhood centres. *We cook together, eat together, and have fun together. just like this.*"

"That sounds amazing! I see you're preparing such a wonderful meal. I usually see this in Turkish restaurants, but now I'm watching you make it fresh. Can you tell us a bit more? What is this delightful, delicious-looking dish?"

"Yes, it is delicious! This is lahmacun, a traditional Turkish dish. And we're lucky to have a wood-fired oven here, perfect for making lahmacun. It's typically prepared with minced meat."





*"Lahmacun*—We can call it Turkish pizza. So, all those ingredients you mentioned are what make lahmacun?" And where did you learn how to make it?"

"Well, we love eating it, so if you enjoy something and it's delicious, you naturally find a way to learn how to make it. It's fun!" "So, you probably learned it at home?" "Yes, yes, from home."



*Manakish*

*Sis like Turkish pizza. It's very tasty.*

*Turkish pizza is also very tasty.*

"We ate Turkish pizza, it's very good. *I believe that finding manakish here in Kreuzberg and Neukölln isn't a problem at all. Does it give you a good feeling to eat food from your childhood here in Berlin, in your new city?*"

*"Sonnenallee in Neukölln feels like home to me. It has the best manakish!, Absolutely, the best manakish."*

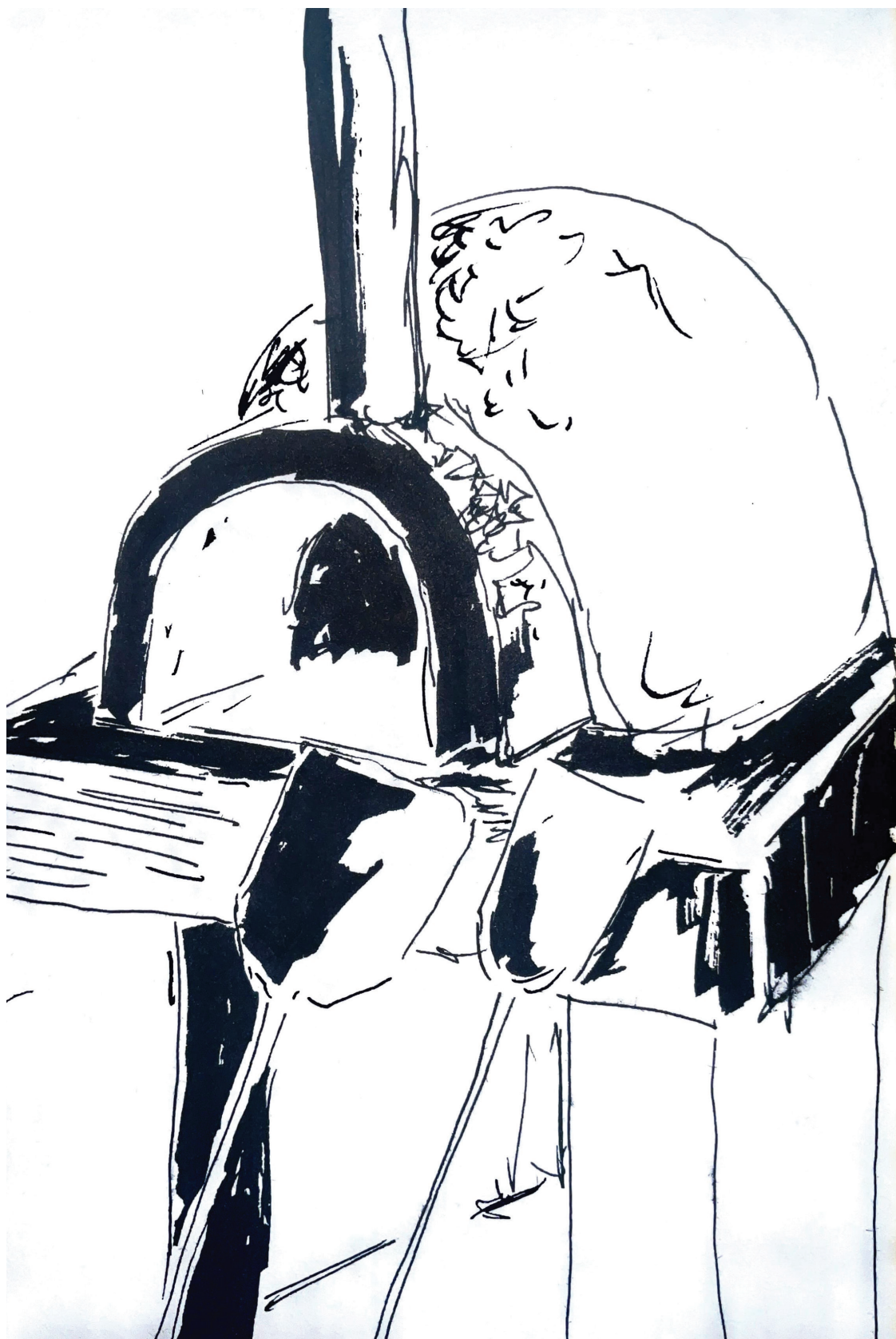
"I've also eaten lahmacun in Turkey. It tastes good here and there, but when *we eat together, we become good friends.* It's a different kind of delicious. I've had lahmacun in Turkey too, but here, among my friends, it means even more. It tasted good, and it was lovely to eat with my friends. So, he said he had plenty of lahmacun in Turkey, but the one here is different. It's even better because we're eating with friends, which is great." *"so your hands should be treated well by the person who cooked the food"* It's a saying in Turkish."

*It's  
very, very, very, very tasty.*

Ali said that eating manakish on Sonnenallee in Neukölln feels traditional to him, as he's from Lebanon, and it's similar to lahmacun. It gives him a good feeling, even in a new city, because it helps him feel connected.

*"Yes, I live here in Germany, in Berlin, with my whole family—my mother, sister, and father, though not my cousin. After two years, I've found Germany, and Berlin in particular, to be very, very beautiful. It feels like home."*

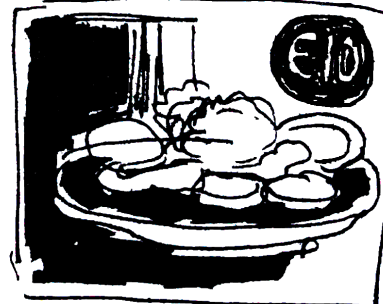
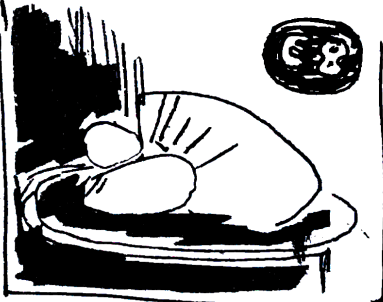
"I find Berlin is a bit like Beirut, like a Hauptstadt—a capital. I'm now in the 11th grade, and I'm learning here."



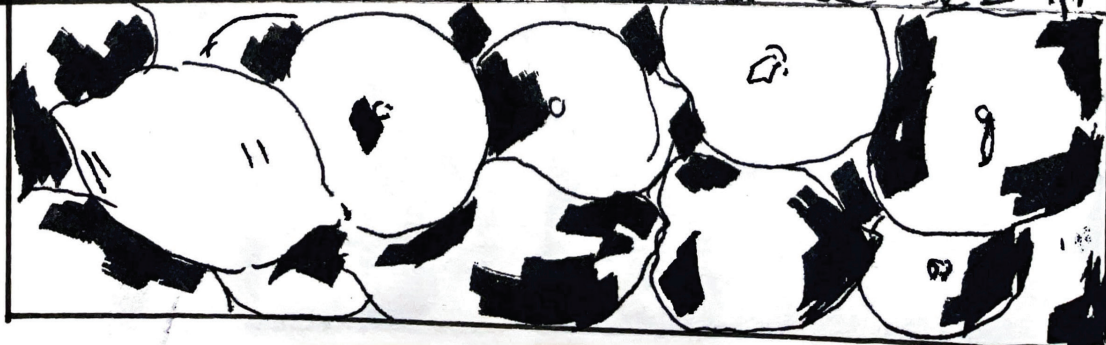
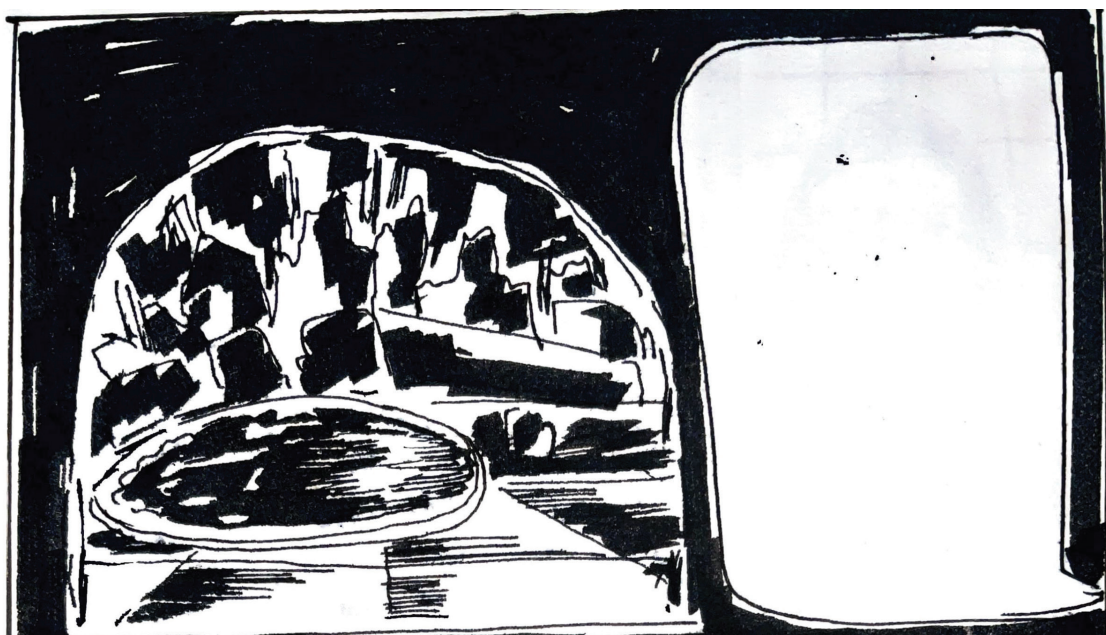


Sonnenall

EATING IN  
SONNENALLE  
FEELS LIKE  
HOME











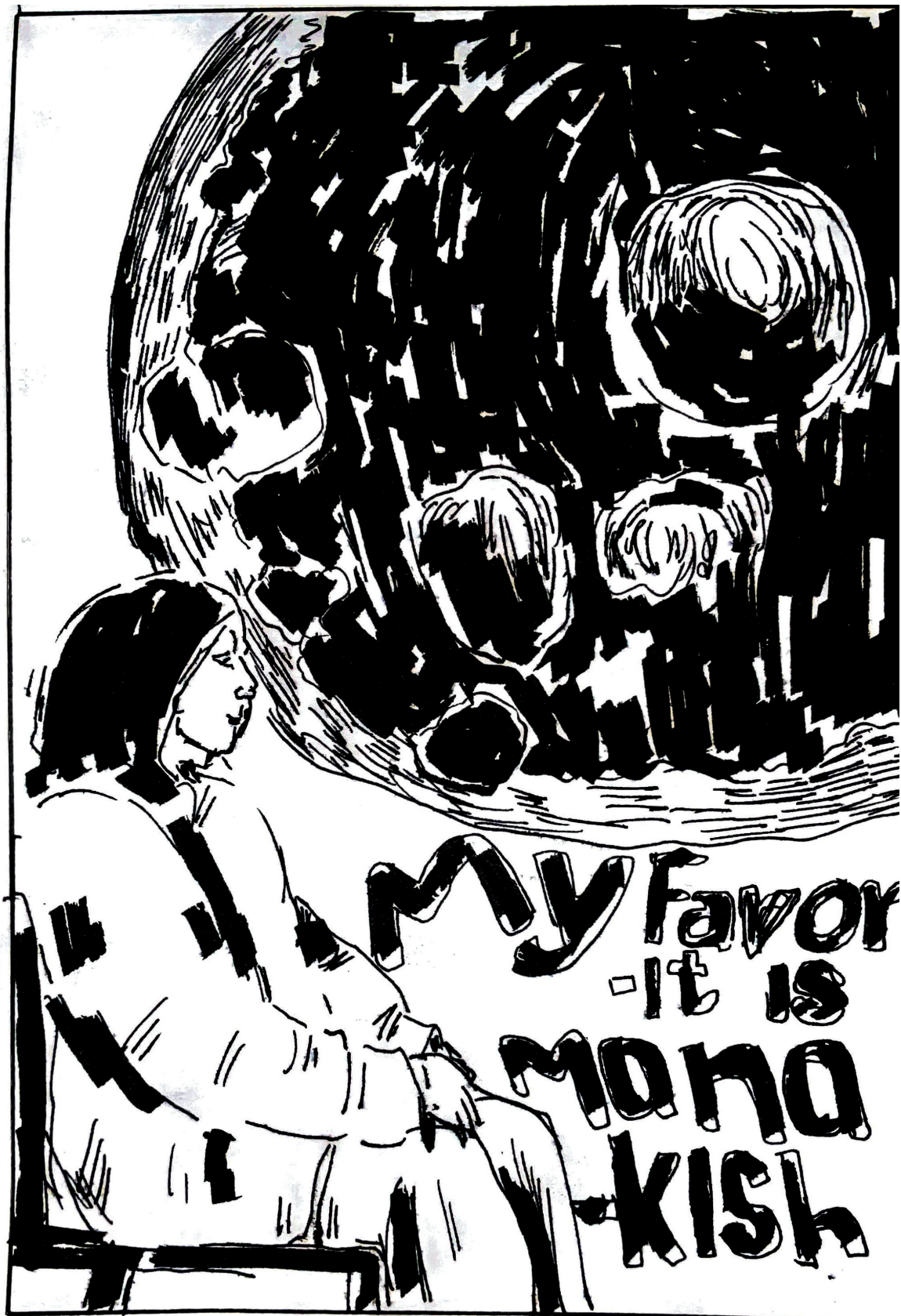
*“We cook together,  
eat together, and  
enjoy each other’s  
company. just like  
that. It’s amazing,  
truly amazing.”*

“Here in the garden, it’s lovely. Berlin is cold now, so it feels refreshing to be outside. We’ve got a fire going, lahmacun baking in the oven, and music playing—such a nice atmosphere. I’d recommend that everyone spend a bit of time outside, even in the cold.

The smell is wonderful. As people pass by, they catch a gust and come over, asking, “What’s going on here? Can I join?” And we say, “Of course, try some lahmacun!” There’s something special about the scent of the dough—I absolutely love it.

We also enjoy being outside in winter, especially as so few others are. Amazingly, you’re here with us, choosing to connect with the community. I think it’s great that dedication to work, you spend time with us here.

I appreciate this environment, where people from different cultures come together. This is Kreuzberg, where over 100 nationalities live side by side, and many visit our neighbourhood garden. It’s one of those spaces where multicultural life truly thrives.



**MY FAVOR**  
**-IT IS**  
**MONA**  
**KISH**



it's delicious. this is lahmacun. And this is a Turkish food.

*What kind of feeling gives this to you eating lahmacun here next to the camp-fire?* Yeah, it's like Turkish dishes, dishes, kitchen, like pizza. I like most Turkish food. Turkish food and Iranian food, Russian food.

*Does this eating give you a special feeling, like you feel connected to somehow?* it's like a sun in my belly. that's good. And you have a beautiful belly. I have a big belly. No, no, no, no, it's perfect.

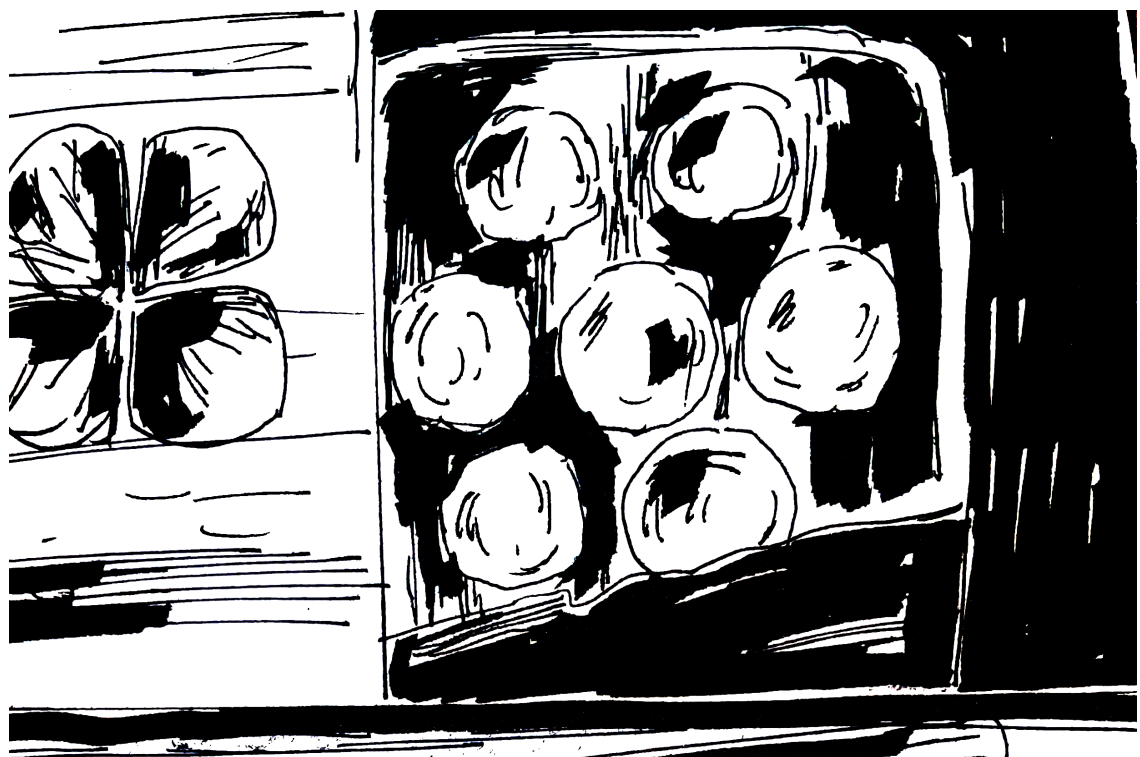
*Everybody's from Izmir here. and we talk about home, feeling home, heimat. What is heimat for you? What does your home mean to you? How do you feel when you compare it to here?*

*This is a difficult question. Is Berlin your new home?  
It's like a process.*

He tries to adapt here in Berlin and needs, of course, people who help him. And, yeah, and he's thankful that people help him, getting somehow integrated.

*How about having some lahmacun? Your sister is here as well, and we're enjoying lahmacun together. But how does it feel to share your sister's lahmacun?* It's a wonderful experience to eat with such good friends. I had lahmacun in Turkey as well, and it tastes great both here and there. But when we eat together, it brings us closer as friends; it's a unique kind of deliciousness. I've had lahmacun in Turkey before, *but here, with my friends, it feels even more special. It tasted good, and sharing it with friends made it even better.*







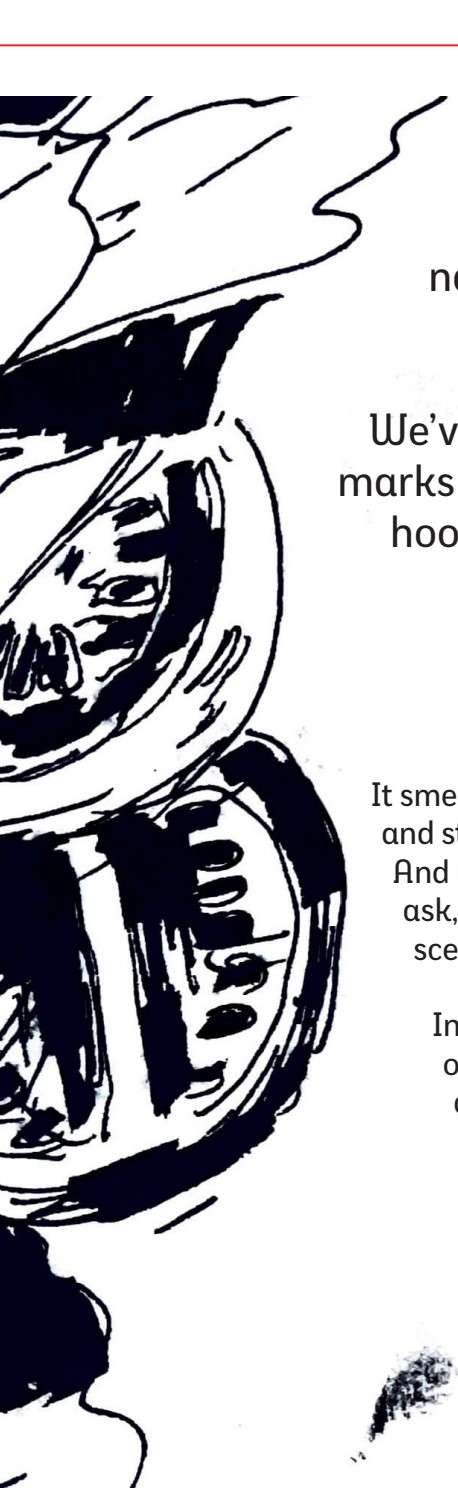




Lahmacun. It's taste from home  
we make together. It's like meditation.  
How our hand  
moving...








“It’s a community house on Übernstrasse, known as the Obernstrasse Neighbourhood House. We’re very fortunate to have this space here in the Garden near the Tempelhof field.

We’ve been here for three years now, and this marks our fourth. Together with the neighbourhood, we built this place from the ground up. Having a spot like this is truly incredible.”

It smells so good! As people walk by, they catch the smell and stop to ask, ‘What’s happening here? May I come in?’ And we say, ‘Of course, try some lahmacun.’ They often ask, ‘What’s that wonderful smell?’ Personally, I love the scent of the dough; it’s something I really enjoy.

In Turkish, we say soğan—like zwiebel in German—for onions, and I love onions. They’re just brilliant. Here’s a question: what kind of smell makes you feel at home? Good question, right? Being in the garden here is lovely, especially now, as Berlin grows colder. It makes you want to go out more. The garden is charming; we’ve got a fire, lahmacun baking in the oven, and music. It’s a really cosy spot. I’d advise everyone to get outside a bit more—just a bit.

Honestly, the smell is just amazing, absolutely wonderful.



To our dear listeners (*Radio listeners*) Li, maybe next time you should join me and experience some lahmacun for yourselves. It’s really something special. And with some vegetables, perhaps you could snap a photo of it!”







Yes, hello. I'm okay. Yes, I am a visitor  
in here, and I like my traditional food  
here. I like to eat, and I like being in a  
multicultural environment. The fire here  
is also good.





Home  
is not  
just physical  
space.

It's also  
emotional  
space.

It's a complex  
space. home

make you feel home  
But some places  
Every space  
is about what we share  
collective experience



# WHAT SMELLS REMINDS YOU OF HOME HOWEVER

In contrast, the earthy aroma of wood smoke reminds us of cosy evenings spent around a fire-place in the spring and the summer with friends and family. This smell evokes nostalgia, mesmerising people back to gatherings filled with warmth and laughter. Whether the smell of burning logs or the char of grilled food, wood smoke makes a sense of familiarity, creating a space that feels welcoming and alive.





# WHAT MAKES HOME?

Home is a concept intertwined with sharing, yet many barriers can prevent us from feeling that connection. It transcends mere physical spaces; home is a tapestry of relationships, memories, and emotions that shape our lives.

For those who migrate, this understanding can be challenging. They may physically inhabit one location while their thoughts and feelings linger elsewhere, leading to inner conflict. Thus, finding a community where one can truly feel at home becomes essential—a place that nurtures belonging.

Despite frequent complaints about integration, we must consider what it really means to be part of a community. Each person brings both responsibilities and rewards to this dynamic. It's vital to honor the spaces we occupy, ensuring we neither betray them nor feel betrayed ourselves. Ultimately, home is a fragile balance—a sanctuary where obligations merge with connection, fostering a genuine spirit of community.

*Home is an emotional  
space, not just a  
physical one.*

how do you  
like it here?

I like it very much  
here. I've spent  
more than half of  
my life here, and  
I'm starting to get  
used to it. After 40  
years living here,





Home exists as a fluid construct, a mosaic composed of myriad fragments of memory and emotion. It transcends the purely physical, embodying a sanctuary for the soul where our experiences intertwine in intricate patterns of belonging and displacement. In the journey of home-making, we embark on self-discovery, navigating the delicate balance between intimacy and the ever-present spectre of absence.

Within the sacred space of home, every element resonates—a whisper of laughter caught in corners, the warmth of sunlight spilling over familiar surfaces, the worn pages of a book cradling wisdom from those before us. Here, we find solace and re-

flection, weaving together the ordinary and extraordinary, crafting a narrative that is both personal and collective. Home becomes a canvas, painted in hues of joy, sorrow, and quiet moments of grace that shape our lives.

Yet, the notion of home is layered and complex. It is a palimpsest, marked with histories of migration, loss, and resilience. As we inhabit these spaces, we confront the stories etched into the walls—stories of struggle, survival, and the human spirit's unyielding will to find belonging. Thus, home transforms into a site of resistance, a place where we reclaim our identities amid a world that often fragments us.

In creating a home, we engage with our deepest selves, curating spaces that mirror our values and aspirations. The rituals of daily life—a

shared meal, the soft rhythm of footsteps through hallways, the care of plants—infuse our environments with meaning. These seemingly ordinary gestures ground us, anchoring us in a world that can often feel adrift.

Moreover, the mosaic of home-making invites us to reflect on both the tangible and intangible landscapes we inhabit. Our homes act as mirrors, reflecting our inner worlds and the complexities of our identities. They reveal the interplay between memory and hope, illustrating the multifaceted nature of belonging. In embracing these contradictions, we cultivate a deeper understanding of ourselves and the communities around us.

Ultimately, the essence of home-making lies in its constant evolution—a living testament to our journeys. It

reminds us that home is not a fixed place but an ongoing process, an art form of its own. As we move through life, we honour this mosaic, cherishing its imperfections and celebrating the beauty of our shared humanity. In the end, home is the tapestry we weave, rich with the colours of our existence—a sanctuary where every thread tells a story of love, loss, and our enduring quest for belonging.

# MOSAIC OF HOME-MAKING

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This publication is inspired by OneLoveRadio at Nachbarschaftsgarten Kreuzberg, an event centring on recorded conversations within the community garden, exploring the theme, “What makes a home?” Through collective learning, spending time together, and sharing, participants reflect on what home means to them, conveyed through personal stories, food, and community experiences.

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