

Leah Rachel Hawker is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Cape Town, South Africa, whose work is rooted in the visual and tactile, with photography at its core. Alongside the lens, her practice extends into ceramics, embroidery, beadwork, bookbinding, and the deeply human act of interviewing—mediums she weaves together in layered explorations of identity, especially that of women.

Her work delves into the intimate terrain of belonging, loss, and cultural memory. During the residency, Leah will create a series of wearable sculptures—headdresses—drawing inspiration from local folklore, tradition, and ceremony. These sculptural pieces will be photographed in the landscapes of the Rhodope region, forming a series of portrait-based installations that connect the body, history, and place.

A particular focus will be the documentation of **Enyovden**, a ritual that resonates with Leah's ongoing exploration of female rites and symbolic storytelling.



Her text to follow

- My name is Leah Rachel Hawker.

- I'm from Cape Town, South Africa. I'm a multi-disciplinary artist with my primary medium being photography. At the moment I'm working with a lot of ceramic, embroidery, beadwork, bookbinding, interviewing as well as photography of course.
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- My practice revolves around identity, especially that of women. During our residency I'll be creating wearable sculptures - headdresses- which will aim to reflect the culture, folklore, tradition and ceremony of the area and touch on themes of belonging and loss.
- I'll be documenting them in situ as a series of portraits and hope to document Enyovden which is a tradition which resonates with me.