

## The women of Sejnane

On the outskirts of Sejnane, a small town northeast of Tunisia, women have exceptional skills to work the mud. The technique of the pot makers of this region in North Africa is ancestral, dates back more than 3 thousand years and has its origins in the Amazigh culture. Due to its age, the ceramics are made in a very modest way, without ovens or lathes, with the help of some stones and sea shells to mold the figurines and straw mixed with manure to cook the mud.

In this region, women have learned the trade of their mothers, who at the same time have learned it from their grandmothers: a tradition that belongs only to the women. In 2018, UNESCO recognized these potters in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Traditionally, this ceramic artifacts were manufactured for their own domestic use, however, in recent decades, the women of Sejnane have begun to market their figures, many, some of them, having for the first time in generations, their own income.

But to make a living for this hard workers is still a daily struggle. There is little movement in this modest region, and few have sufficient economic means to move their product beyond Sejnane. Preserving their sporadic sales, they can wait more than a month for a buyer, to pass on the road and purchase a figure. A product done, thanks to the preservation of this knowledge, taken care for thousands of years by the women of Sejnane.

Photographic work done during November, 2019. Sejnane, Tunisia.