

Galeria Asûs
Pracownia Studiów Kurdyjskich ZI IO UJ

i
Ebrahim Alipoor

zapraszają na wystawę fotografii:

Suzan's Journeys

Suzan's Journeys: Kurdish Language in Rojhelat (Iranian Kurdistan)
Podróże Suzan: Język kurdyjski w Rożhelacie (Kurdystanie irańskim)
سەفەری سوسەن: زمانی کوردی لە رۆژهەڵاتی کوردستاندا

4.11.2025, godz. 18.30

**Galeria Asûs, Wydział Filologiczny UJ, ul. Mickiewicza
9B, IV p**

Suzan's Journeys

The Kurdish Language in Rojhelat (Iranian Kurdistan)

04.11.2025-21.03.2026

Suzan is a teacher of the Kurdish language in Iranian Kurdistan, which is called Rojhelat (Eastern Kurdistan) by the Kurds. She travels from village to village to teach Kurdish people how to read and write in their native tongue. The Kurds are one of the significant ethnic and religious minorities in Iran, with a population of between 8 and 10 million. The Iranian constitution acknowledges the existence of non-Persian languages but designates Persian as the only official medium of communication. At the same time, various decrees issued by the Iranian authorities discourage or directly ban the use of Kurdish in many domains, especially in education. Kurdish language teachers and activists face arbitrary arrests, like Zara Mohammadi, who was sentenced to 5 years in prison. Interestingly, in both Iran and Turkey, it is mainly Kurdish women who have taken up teaching Kurdish despite many obstacles and oppression.

Suzan started teaching Kurdish in cities and remote villages on her own initiative right after graduating at the age of 16. Like other teachers, she has faced arrests but continues with her work. Between 2009 and 2025, she taught Kurdish in numerous Kurdish villages in Rojhelat (in the Bikaner area: Goldanê Xwarê, Yaqyan, Axwutman, Daşbend, Sllamen, Zêrandoll, Xorxore, Kanî Reş, Serdarabad, Şerefkend; in Saqez: Şêxçopan, Gwêzê, Sera, Serçawe, Slêmkendî; in the Miyanduaw/Miyandoab area: Zawakêw, Sardekwestan, Gwêgcelî, Qamişgoli; in the Mahabad area: Watemîş). These are three-level classes organized in mosques and the houses of village leaders. Suzan teaches both the Arabic and Latin versions of the Kurdish alphabet. The students' age ranges from 8 to 70.

Curated by: Joanna Bocheńska & Ebrahim Alipoor,

Asûs Gallery, Jagiellonian University, Kraków

Ebrahim Alipoor was born in Baneh, Iranian Kurdistan. For over fifteen years, he has been dedicated to photography, which he considers the artistic medium best suited to touching people's hearts. He believes that in countries like Iran, influencing people through art is both vital and challenging. Having never left Iran, Alipoor focuses his photographic narratives on the people of the Middle East, particularly the Kurds, whom he knows intimately. His long-standing connection with the Section of Kurdish Studies at Jagiellonian University has led to previous collaborations in Kraków and Warsaw, where he presented his photography project on the dervishes of Iranian Kurdistan, screened his documentary films, and discussed his travel projects. His award-winning reportage, *Bullets Have No Borders*, tells the tragic story of the *koolbars*, Kurdish porters who carry heavy loads through the mountains along the Iran-Iraq border. Driven by economic hardship, they risk their lives to support their families and often fall victim to the Iranian army, which brands them as criminals.

See: www.ebrahimalipoor.com