

AS MOTHER MADE IT

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Santiniketan, India
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As Mother Made It — Colonial Interventions in the Indian Kitchen presents traditional Indian kitchen utensils that have been stripped of their original functions. Cups have been perforated by me, containers deformed, tools rendered unusable.

These deliberate interventions point to a historical process: the colonial reshaping of the Indian kitchen during British rule. In the course of this transformation, culinary practices were adapted to colonial norms and in part alienated from their cultural logic — including how dishes were prepared or ingredients combined.

A well-known example is curry, which today is seen as the very essence of Indian cuisine. Its modern form and global popularity, however, are deeply influenced by British colonial tastes — particularly through the introduction of standardized spice blends designed to suit European palates.

In this project, culinary culture and colonial history intersect. The title and aesthetic of my work initially evoke familiarity and tradition — yet the evident dysfunctionality of the everyday objects tells a different story, becoming a metaphor for historical estrangement. Thus, the kitchen also emerges as a space in which colonial traces and interventions materialize.