

# ANCESTRAL MODERNITY

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an avant-grade leather collection inspired by the arsi oromo  
siinqee institution

# siinqee

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The Siinqee is more than a wooden staff; it represents a powerful, women-led legal mechanism in Arsi Oromo tradition that guards human rights, bodily autonomy, and social harmony.

When society's boundaries are violated, the sisterhood mobilizes under the cosmic law of Safuu to halt violence, protect daughters, and enforce peaceful resolution through customary court structures.

# siinqee

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The collection draws inspiration from the Siinqee tradition of the Arsi Oromo, where the Siinqee stick symbolizes women's dignity, social justice, peace, and empowerment. The leather dress translates these cultural values into a modern luxury garment through symbolic forms, textures, and craftsmanship. The design celebrates the strength and respected role of Oromo women while preserving the essence of traditional identity in a contemporary fashion language.

# key design inspiration

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## Siinqee Stick Form

- Use the elongated shape of the Siinqee stick as the main silhouette inspiration.
- Create vertical panel lines that run from shoulder to hem, representing unity and strength.
- Incorporate cylindrical leather-wrapped details resembling the Siinqee staff.

## Symbol of Protection and Authority

- Structured shoulders and strong bodice construction.
- A fitted upper body transitioning into a flowing skirt to represent authority balanced with grace.
- Layered leather panels symbolizing collective strength among women.

# story board

## SIINQEE

THE VOICE OF STRENGTH

LEATHER DRESS COLLECTION  
INSPIRED BY THE ARSI OROMO  
SIINQEE TRADITION

A celebration of Oromo women's  
dignity, peace, and strength.  
The Siinquee stick is a symbol of  
authority, justice, and protection.  
This collection translates that  
heritage into contemporary  
leather couture.



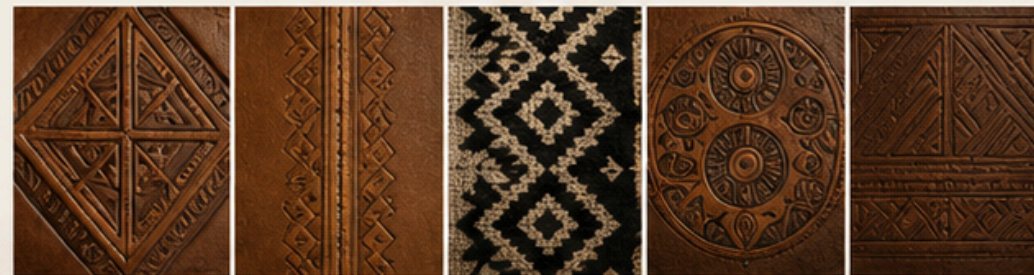
### CULTURAL INSPIRATION



### COLOR PALETTE



### OROMO MOTIFS & PATTERNS



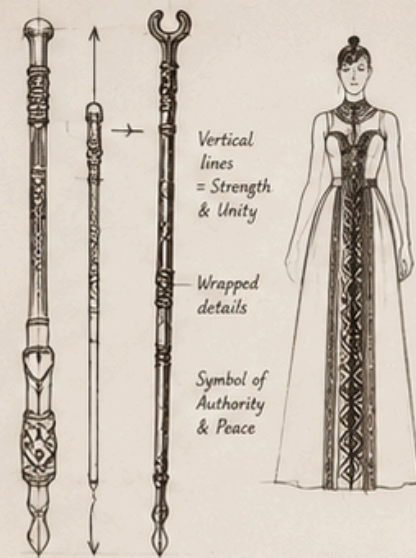
### TEXTURE & MATERIAL EXPLORATION



### MATERIALS



### SIINQEE INSPIRATION



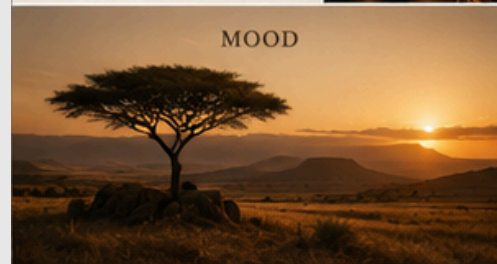
### SILHOUETTE DIRECTIONS



### DETAILS & ACCESSORIES



### MOOD



### VALUES



"Siinquee is not just a stick,  
it is the voice of women,  
the power of peace,  
and the strength of our people."  
– Arsi Oromo Proverb



# design sketches



# design sketches

Stage 1: Loose Thugression



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Stage 2: Refined Linear Sketches



Back View Progression



Stage 3: Refined



# materials

- Premium vcow leather leather for garment
- Soft sheep leather for draped sections
- Nubuck leather accents
- Handwoven Ethiopian cotton inserts

# **sustainable features**

- Utilize leather offcuts for decorative appliqués.
- Natural vegetable dyes inspired by Oromo cultural colors.