September 2026

Afghan Women Support

Empowerment through education and work

Partners in Progress

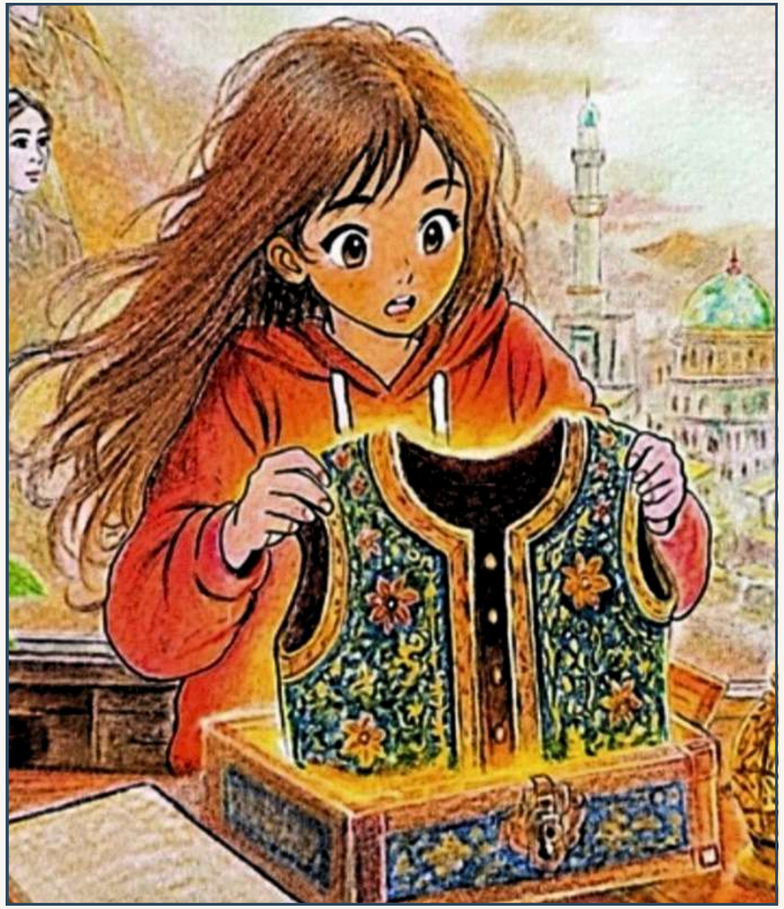
Detective Sanazu

And the Time-Traveling Vest

Who is Sanazu?

Sanazu, born in the mind of Selai Balkhi, has grown up in America with a desire to explore her Afghan-American heritage.
This appears difficult while growing up in a world where she does not feel her identity is represented. However upon her discover of a magic vest she embarks
on a time travelling journey, which allows her to meet Rabia Balkhi, Gawhar Shad Begum and Malalai of Mawad.

Therefore, who Sanazu is, becomes shaped by influential Afghan women, who shaped history and culture. In her journey Afghan girls and women are not just represented but also take on the roles of creators, artists, and heroines



> Sanazu discovered a vest ,but the world is yet to discover her journey.

Sanazu's Discovery

Thanks to hard work and support from donors chapter one has been completed. What began as a simple but imaginative idea has developed into a meaningful way of preserving memory, and giving younger generations new ways to engage with their history and identity.

> *“As an illustrator, there is something especially meaningful about watching an idea gradually become visible.” -Illustrator of Sanazu*

The Journey… so far

One of the most meaningful milestones in Sanazu’s journey came in July 2026, when the project had the opportunity to be presented at Comic-Con under the leadership of Selai Balkhi.

Seeing Detective Sanazu represented alongside international comics showed that a story rooted in Afghan culture can enter wider creative spaces and be presented to audiences beyond the community from which it originated.

For a project developed across distance and with limited resources, reaching such a platform was a significant achievement.



Travelling with Sanazu

To travel with Sanazu is to travel with hope. The hope being that in this journey more young women will question and wonder about the world and themselves. Detective Sanazu gives us an opportunity to understand identity not merely as manifestation of history,



but as an interaction with it, as it encourages inquiry, through Sanazu’s adventures and conversations with historical figures.

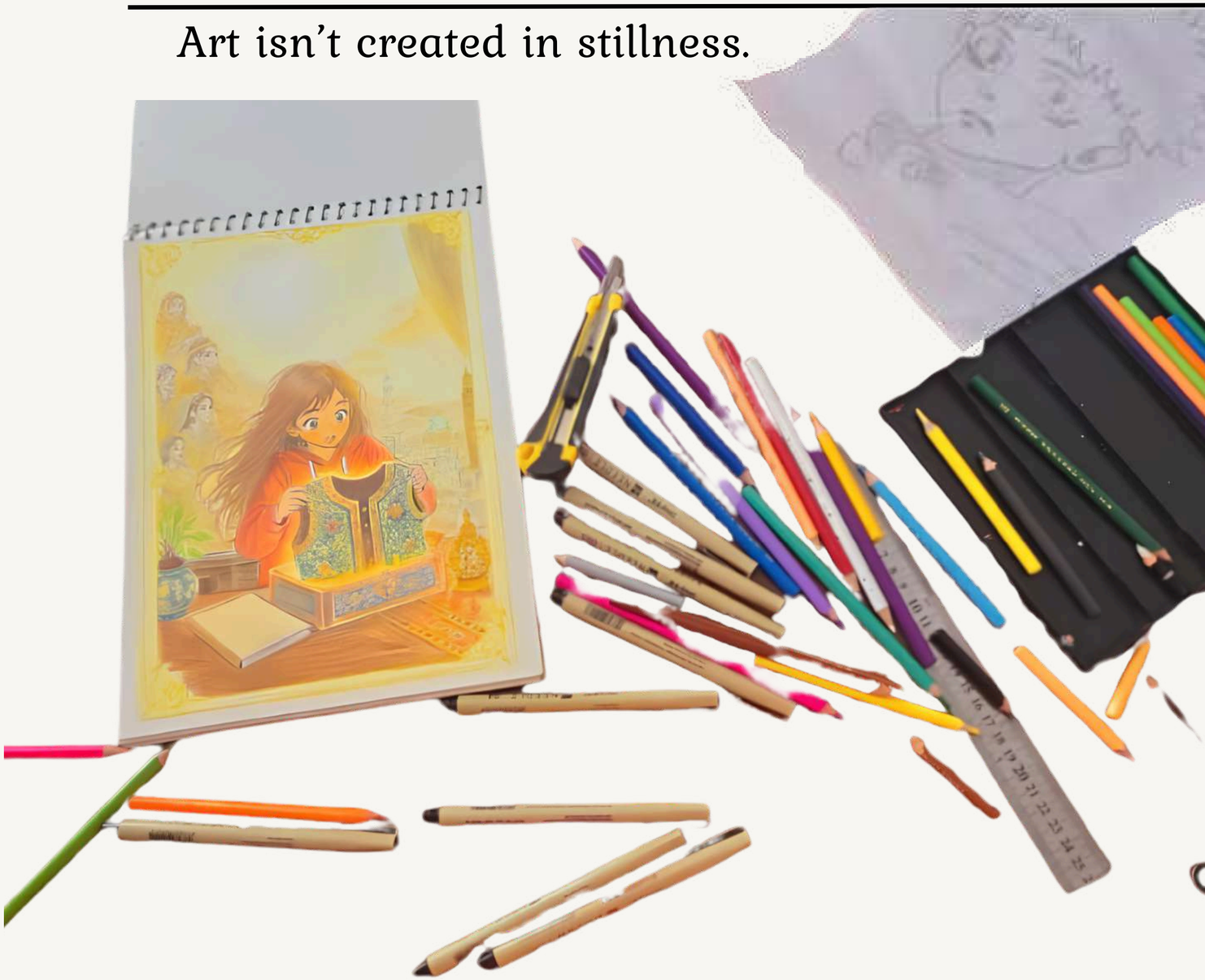
The courage of these ideas is not only in the story, but their pages as it has been illustrated by S.N. (full name hidden for safety reasons) from Afghanistan and written by Selai Balkhi.





The Artists Desk

Art isn't created in stillness.



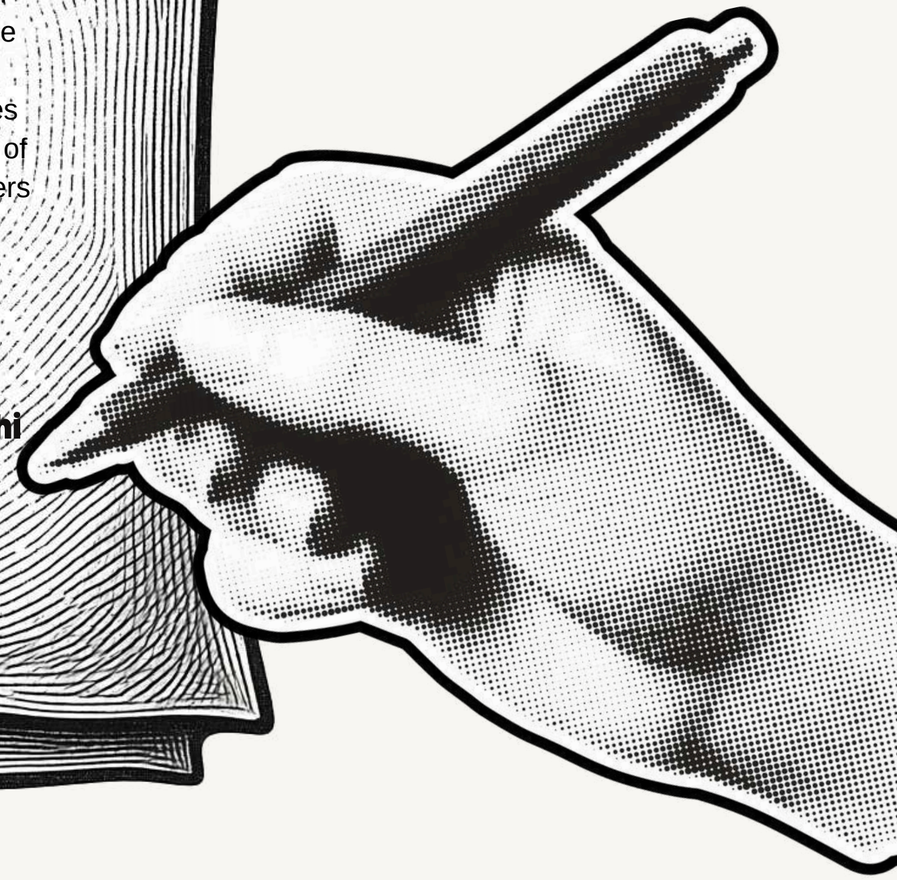
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Meet the Author



To Selai Balkhi ,Sanazu is not merely a comic, but a way of education, decolonization and empowerment. Being from an Afghan family herself, she understands the importance of representation. Having one's identity as an Afghan woman be represented only through suffering, she argues is not only historically inaccurate, but harmful to creation of one own's identity. The phrase history is written by winners is often repeated. Sanazu invites women into their own victory, not through rewriting history, but understanding themselves through it. This way, women are called to remember what they are capable and incite change.

"Changing the future of history" -Selai Balkhi on the meaning of Sanazu.



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Meet the Illustrator

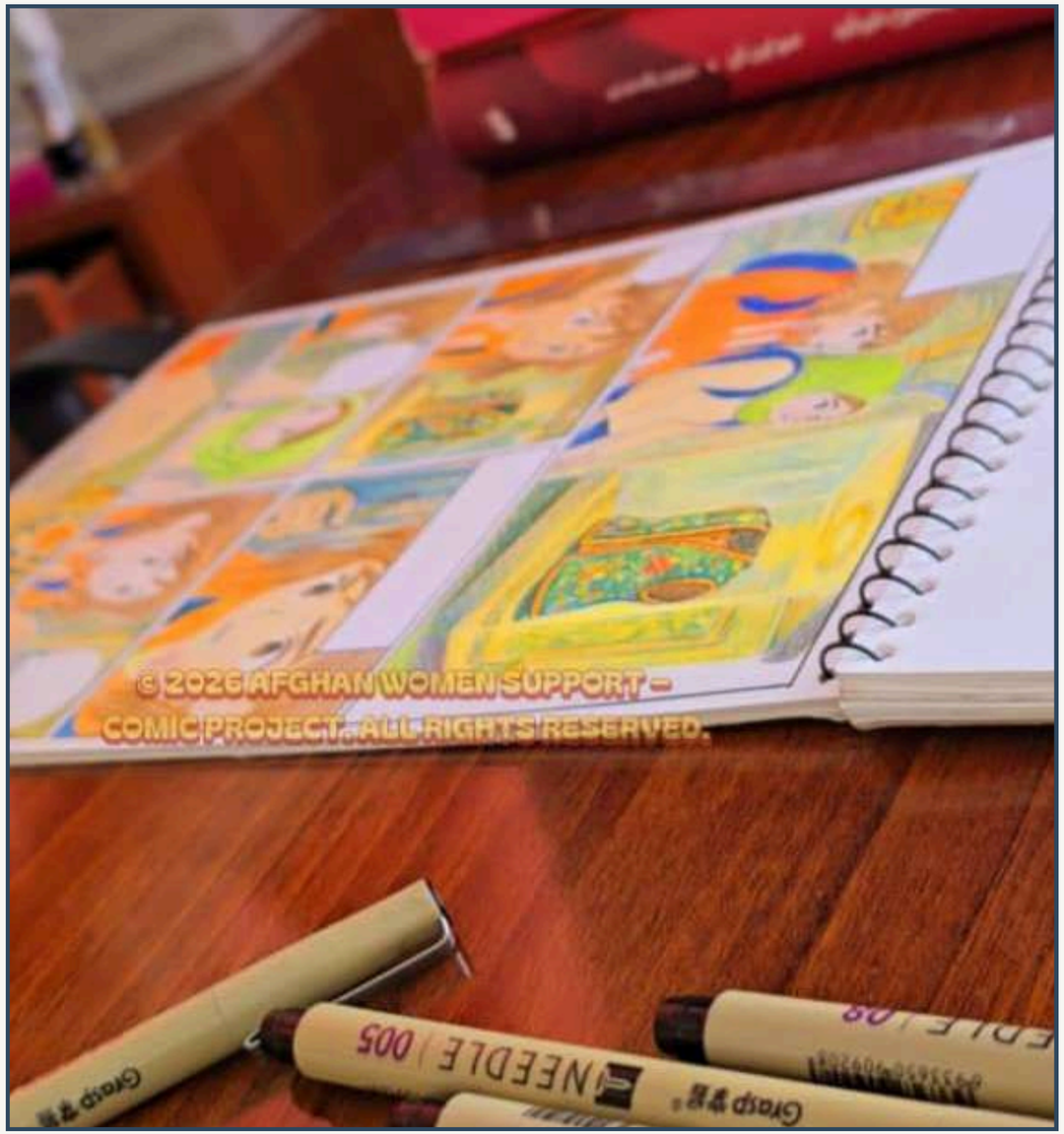


S.N. is a 19-year-old Afghan illustrator, visual storyteller, and multidisciplinary artist whose work explores identity, history, culture, and imagination.

Working from her home studio, her practice combines traditional drawing, visual research, and creative world-building, often inspired by Afghan heritage, women's stories, historical figures, and cultural symbolism.

As the illustrator of Detective Sanazu and the Time-Traveling Vest, S.N. collaborates with writer Selai Balkhi to bring the world of Sanazu to life. Through months of dedication, research, and virtual collaboration across distance, they have transformed an imaginative idea into a tangible creative project.

For S.N, illustration is a way to give stories a visual voice and create new connections with history and identity.



What Sanazu Means

When asked to describe this process S.N. insists that the creative process takes on a life of its own

"A blank page becomes a sketch. A sketch becomes a character. a character becomes part of a scene. And eventually, those individual pieces become a story that can be shared with someone else. That transformation is what makes creating Sanazu so meaningful to me."

She continues by explaining that her connection to the artwork is not only artistic ; "I believe that education, creativity, and the participation of girls and women in society are deeply connected. Education is not only about acquiring information. It can give people the opportunity to question, imagine, create, communicate, and contribute. Creative work can become part of that process." says S.N.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us take this story from an idea to its first completed chapter. The journey continues"
- S.N.

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From Page to Reality

A group of young artists have began the process of recreating the Sanazu's vest in real life. The world of Sanazu is slipping from the pages and into our world. Hopefully, us , Sanazu and the vest will embark on thr journey of a lifetime.







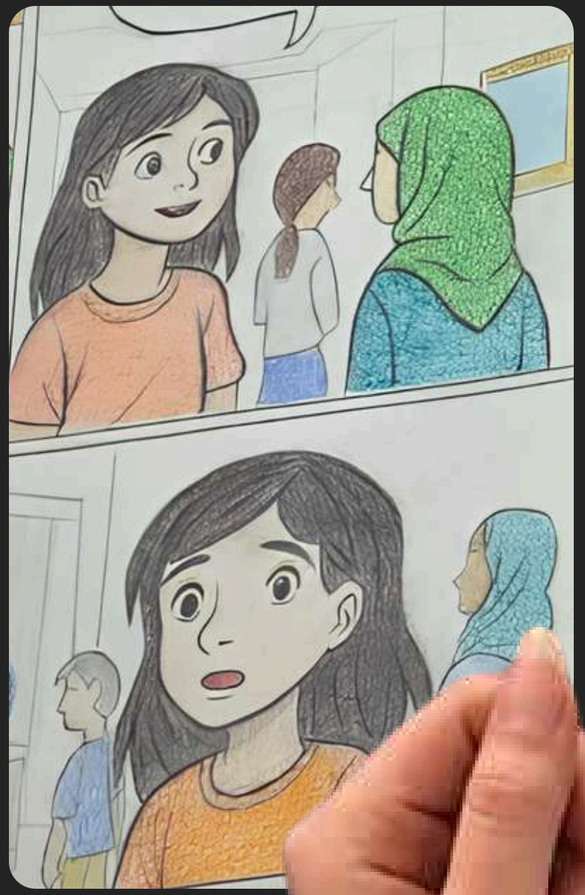
What's Next?

Chapter one has blown off the dust from the box, but chapter two seeks to open it by going deeper into Afghan history, culture and traditions. The characters from this new old world are yet to be met.

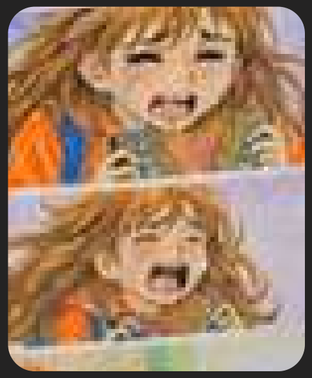
In this travel with Sanazu, we are not only called to look back into history, but infront of us. This means hoping for the things yet to come, such as exploring Sanazu beyond the comic through possible physical/creative pieces such as tote bags, the physical vest, hang tags, coloring/activity books, stickers, T-shirts, accessories, magazines and special collections.

While these ideas currently being explored, are not yet confirmed products, they show the meaning of this project on a collective level.
Make clear that these are ideas currently being explored/developed, rather than confirmed products









Until the Next Chapter...






Your support helps us grow

Thank You

For turning pages into progress and standing with Afghan women



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