

Gabriel Chaile

Centro Cultural Ambulante (Mobile Cultural Center), 2026

adobe, bricks, metal structure

Courtesy of the artist, Studio Chaile, Marianne Boesky Gallery and ChertLüdde, Berlin.

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Education Resource (K-6)



Migrantes são bem-vindos (installation view), 2022

Kunststhalie Lissbon, Lisbon.

Photography: Bruno Lopes

Overview



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Have you ever shared a meal with family or friends? Maybe it was a birthday barbecue, a holiday dinner, or just pizza night. When everyone gathers around food, something special happens - people talk, laugh, and feel connected. Argentine artist Gabriel Chaile turns that special feeling into public art.

Gabriel builds large, working ovens from adobe (mud mixed with straw). He hand-builds adobe over metal frames, shapes and dries the forms, then brings them to life with real fire. The ovens use fire, smoke, and sound to turn sculpture into a place for gathering. The ovens are set on wheels and paired with drums or megaphones, so the sculpture can move and support gathering wherever it goes. The drums and megaphones help carry stories and songs so many voices can be heard in a shared space.

Gabriel's ancestors are from Indigenous communities in north-western Argentina, where clay ovens like these have fed families for generations. They are made from humble materials that anyone can repair and use. For Gabriel's community, bread ovens were never just for cooking. They were a way to care for each other, share food, and keep culture alive. By making them big and public, Gabriel honours those memories and traditions.

At the Biennale, the ovens cook and share food with visitors, inviting people to talk, learn, and take part in living culture together. The work shows how gathering around warmth and food keeps community strong and memories alive, even as time passes and places change.



Los Jóvenes Recordaron sus Canciones (detail view) 2025

Fundación Cervieri Monsuárez, Uruguay

Courtesy the Artist and Fundación Cervieri Monsuárez, Departamento de Maldonado



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Discussion Questions

We are looking at Gabriel's oven-sculptures that bring people together to share warmth, food, and stories.

His ovens **use** adobe with rough, earthy **textures**. How do the earth **colours** and **textures** make you **feel**. Is it cosy, curious, excited? What about them gives you that **feeling**? What do you **think** Gabriel wants people to do together around these ovens, and how can you tell from the **shapes** and **materials**?

Think about your family meals or celebrations.

What's **different** about eating food that someone made for you **compared** to eating alone? How does **sharing** food make people **feel connected**? Did you sit close together or spread out?

What special foods does your family make for **celebrations**? (Birthday cake? Holiday dishes? Barbecue?) Why do you **think** those foods are saved for special times?

Practical Activities

Activity 1

Start a new page in your exercise book and let's imagine your oven at home.

What shapes does it have? Where is it? Is it in the kitchen? Or do you have a pizza oven outside? Some families have more than one oven.

Draw one or all your ovens in pencil somewhere on your page.

Next, using your imagination draw a pathway to your oven(s). It can be a colourful path or a patterned one, it can be windy or straight.

At the start of the path write "Welcome", and at the end where the oven is write "Share here".

Draw some stick-figure friends anywhere along the path. Draw as many as you like.

Fill in your drawing to make a picture. You can put grass, benches, and trees. Write one short sentence on the page somewhere: "We gather here because it feels". Fill in it, how does it feel?

Look at your picture. Does it resemble a familiar place? Who are the people in your drawing? Is it your family? Or your friends?

You have drawn your own community feast! Write your name at the bottom and save the artwork.

Activity 2

Have a good look at Gabriel's ovens in front of you. What shapes do you notice?

Observe them and draw the oven in the middle of your paper with a pencil.

Around the oven, draw some stick figures. This can be you, your family, and your friends. Write their names above their figures.



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Now let's add sound lines. Draw wavy lines coming from each person toward the big oven. These sound lines represent the people's voices and the sound travelling to the oven.

Write next your stick figures what sound each person makes. For example, are they singing? laughing? telling a story? saying hello?

Draw one extra-thick sound wave from the oven going up, towards the top of the paper. This is the megaphone making the sounds louder so everyone can hear.

What does it sound like to you when many voices come together? Write this at the top of your page: "When many voices come I hear...."

Answer it! Is it a celebration? a party? a choir?



Contemplating is How We Have Been Changing (installation view), 2024

Courtesy of the Artist; ChertLüdde, Berlin; Tabakalera, San Sebastián

Photography: Tabakalera

