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Arch of Triumph (قوس النصر) - Iraqi Sculptor **Khalid Al Rahal**

(<http://isqineeha.tumblr.com/post/51900660369/artist-of-the-day-iraqi-artist-khalid-al-rahah#notes>) and **Mohammed Ghani Hikmat**

The Arch of Triumph began as a sketch first proposed by Saddam Hussain and later designed by Iraqi sculptor Adil Kamil. However, after the death of Adil Kamil the project was given to Khalid Al Rahal and Mohammed Ghani Hikmat to be executed based on the same concept. The project was commissioned to be built in Baghdad as a representation of the end of the Iraq-Iran war and that's where its alternative name (Swords of Al Qaddissiyah) stems from. Some sources mention that Ghani Hikmat took an actual impression of Saddam's thumbs and was later added to one of the thumbs in the sculpture. The arches were to be destroyed in 2007 by orders from the Iraqi government to destroy every sculpture and monument made by the commission of Saddam Hussain, the destruction took place upon commands from the current Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al Maliki but they were later retreated after pressures from the U.S Ambassador then Zalmay Khalilzad.

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