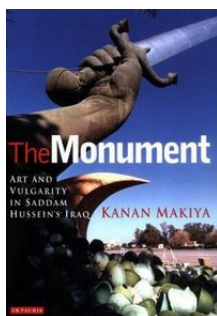


THE MONUMENT: ART AND VULGARITY IN SADDAM HUSSEIN'S IRAQ

In Baghdad, an enormous monument nearly twice the size of the Arc de Triomphe towers over the city. Two huge forearms emerge from the ground, clutching two swords that clash overhead. Those arms are enlarged casts of those of Saddam Hussein, showing every bump and follicle. The "Victory Arch" celebrates a victory over Iran (in their 8-year long war) that never happened. The Monument is a study of the interplay between art and politics, of how culture, normally an unquestioned good, can play into the hands...



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The Monument: Art and Vulgarities in Saddam Hussein's Iraq

Author	Kanan Makiya
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Reader's Opinions

Kanan Makiya is a gifted writer, whose work on the Iraqi Ba'ath regime is unparalleled in "Republic of Fear." "The Monument": two hands holding crossed swords rising out of piles of the helmets of dead Iranian soldiers - is probably the most recognised symbol of totalitarianism in the Arab world. Makiya discusses the perversion of art...