

*Monument to Ahmad* is a public sculpture made by Mohamad of his brother Ahmad installed in the city square of Abadan, Iran initially on June 20th, 1980. The sculpture was 140 centimetres in height, 100 centimetres in length, and 50 centimetres in width. It rested on a base that was 74 centimetres tall and about the same length and width as the sculpture itself. The monument stood 214 centimetres tall from the ground including the base. The form was made out of polished concrete sourced locally, and the base of the sculpture was made from marble imported from Carrara. The base extended 74 centimetres below the ground. While in preparation for the installation, the sculptor Mohamad requested to keep the soil that was excavated to place the marble base half below the ground.

The sculpture was in the shape of a figure of a man. The man's posture was upright, contrapposto, and his gaze was slightly directed upwards. The sculpture was oriented to true north (Mohamad had always hoped that one day he himself would see the aurora borealis, this is known because he produced a number of works coloured with bright fluorescent green paint).

It is now known that the concrete structure was constructed from 26 different concrete-casted pieces. The sculpture was originally carved out of soft wax and then separated into smaller pieces suitable for casting. The sculptor reused the wax from another series of 26 sculptures that he produced the same year. He had made 22 models of airplanes, trains, blimps, cars, even a pencil sharpener all in a formal style resembling of the Italian Futurists. In the same series, he also made 4 small sculptures representing a lanky plant with white and yellow flowers. The wax he used was salvaged from a few boxes of unused paraffin candles from some European embassy that was looted during the revolution and given to Mohamad on the occasion of his birthday.

On May 8th, 1984, a structural engineer studying the facade of a nearby building noticed *Monument to Ahmad* and grew fond of the sculpture, and when he approached it for a closer look, he noticed the details of the surface. It looked like parts of the sculpture were composed of little dimples similar to the surface of a golf ball. After another inspection, he observed that they appear primarily on the north side of the sculpture, on the torso, eyes, cheeks, and left leg. He naively speculated that they were formed by erosion. Being so moved by the resemblance the figure to a lost friend, the Engineer took it upon himself to fill in the small circular incisions with black putty to smooth out the surface, working with the materials he had on him from the job that day.

The next day the Engineer went back, and was surprised to find an empty marble base with the sculpture *Monument to Ahmad* missing! He asked around and located the sculpture 20 km north of the site in a deserted plain. The sculpture was leaning on its left leg angled 45 degrees from the ground with the torso and head facing forward. Its shadow pointed to a small green rock at the base of a small seedling growing. The engineer notified officials who then brought the sculpture back, and pleaded that they should properly secure it to its base. The Engineer even went as far as to criticize the city officials, using the city's budget to import such a grand piece of foreign marble without the knowledge of properly anchoring a sculpture to it.

On, August 17, 1997, the Engineer revisited Abadan and noticed that the sculpture and the base were no longer there. Just the hole in the city square, where it had just collected trash that the wind carried and deposited. Out of curiosity, he asked around and no one knew what had happened to the sculpture or the sculptor, some speculated that Mohamad went abroad, others said that he passed away. The Engineer considered maybe the sculpture was destroyed during the Iran-Iraq war, and the marble base was taken by someone else looking to use it as a building material. He learned that the city officials were embarrassed by the event and promptly did as he suggested and secured the concrete structure to its marble base that very day that they had rediscovered it. He was shocked to hear that the very night the sculpture was returned to the city square and properly secured to its base, it had disappeared again. The Engineer returned to the site where he located the missing sculpture. Not to his surprise, the sculpture nor the base was to be found, only a large bush of plants that he later identified as *Peganum Harmala* (or Syrian Rue) were growing at the site. While looking at the plants, he rediscovered the small green rock that he had previously noticed, he picked it up and put in his pocket.

It is sometimes speculated, following these events, when Mohamad heard the news, he brought the soil he kept from the excavation and filled the empty hole.

On June 21, 2039, the sculpture including its marble base reappeared in the city square.