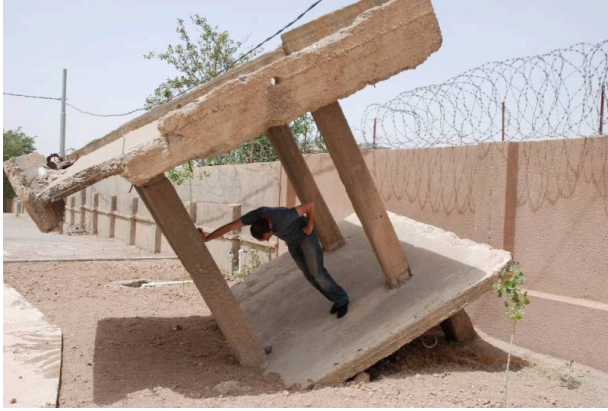


Basic Detail Report



Diagonal

Date

2009

Primary Maker

Hiwa K

Medium

Digital photograph C Print

Dimensions

133 × 200 cm

Description

In *Diagonal*, the artist stands inside a fallen watchtower, pushing against the structure. His pose evokes those of classical sculpture, such as the *The Discobolus* of Myron, but he is contained within an architectural fragment rather than standing on a plinth. The precarious building offers no protection. It was a watchtower in the Amna Suraka – the Red Security Building – built in the early 1980s by Saddam Hussain in Sulaimany – a Kurdish city in Northern Iraq – as a political prison for those who opposed the authority of the Ba'ath Party. The building was taken over by rebels in 1991 and severely damaged, and it remains a symbol of the authoritarian regime in the very centre of the city. Hiwa K associates many memories with the history of the site, which was previously a meadow, then a football field, then the construction site of Amna Suraka, where he and his sisters and cousins used to play hide and seek.