



### The Politics of Belonging in Algerian Art

Denis Martinez's 7 Murs Revisités, 1989

By Cynthia J. Becker

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**Examines how Denis Martinez's art, particularly his 1990 exhibition 7 murs revisités, used Indigenous collaboration to challenge nationalist narratives and illuminate the cultural tensions within post-colonial Algeria.**

Since the late 1960s, Algerian artist Denis Martinez has drawn from Amazigh art to confront post-colonial politics. Collaborating with Indigenous communities, his multimedia work channels the era's tensions and reimagines art as a transformative force that is capable of healing, resisting marginalization, and envisioning a pluralistic future for Algeria.

#### Key selling points

Presents a history of artistic resistance that highlights a little-known episode of Algerian art history

Sheds light on a key member of the post-colonial Algerian artistic group Aouchem, an avant-garde group that confronted colonial history through its embrace of Amazigh visual culture

Examines the art of Denis Martinez in the context of Algeria's Amazigh (Berber) heritage, challenging dominant Arab-Islamic nationalist narratives prevalent in 1980s Algeria

#### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

**Cynthia Becker** is Professor of African art in the History of Art & Architecture Department at Boston University.

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