

# Ali and Nino

On the seashore of Georgian town Batumi there is a huge moving sculpture. Actually, there are two 8 meter sculptures - a man and a woman, built out of many horizontal rings. First, the two sculptures are separated from each other, then they come near together, join into one sculpture, go through themselves and separate. They start moving every day at 7:00 PM, are controlled by a computer and lit with colourful lights.

The sculpture was designed by a famous Georgian artist Tamara Kvesitadze, first in a small scale version, then a new 8 meter version. It took a full 10 months for a German company to build it because the 7 ton heavy sculptures had to be resistant to the climate, humidity and wind. The sculpture was completed in 2010.



The sculpture is called Ali and Nino and is based on a book by Kurban Said from 1937. This is a love story between a young Muslim man from Azerbaijan called Ali and a Christian princess from Georgia called Nino during the times of World War I. The fact that they were from different religions and different cultures was a problem to their marriage. Nevertheless they overcame the difficulties and got married. Unfortunately, Ali died during the war with Russia.