

# Restoration and Conservation of *Alamo (Cube)*

## Preliminary PDC Review

Tony Rosenthal

# Background





TITLE: *Alamo (Cube)*  
ARTIST: Tony Rosenthal  
MATERIAL: Painted Cor-ten  
Steel  
FABRICATOR: Lippincott, Inc.  
DATE: 1967  
LOCATION: Astor Place  
Pedestrian Plaza, Lafayette  
Street between E 8<sup>th</sup> Street and  
Astor Place (Manhattan)

#### DIMENSIONS

Sculpture: 15' h

Cube: 8' h x 8' w x 8' d

Base: 6.5" h x 96.5" x 96.5" d

Approx. 1800 lbs

# Timeline of *Alamo (Cube)* Restoration

Three separate restorations have been conducted over the lifespan of the sculpture.

**1987:** Restored through the Municipal Art Society's Adopt-A-Monument Program; Restoration completed off site by original fabricator, Lippincott Foundry

**2005 - 2007:** Versteeg Art Fabricators was contracted to oversee the restoration in partnership with Parks' Engineering and Arts & Antiquities Department

**2014:** Removed for restoration by DOT and DDC during capital reconstruction of Astor Place Plaza; Restoration contracted to Aegeis Restauro



# December 2021

Reported that the base of the sculpture was separating and causing a tilt.

Barricades were placed around the artwork to deter public interaction.

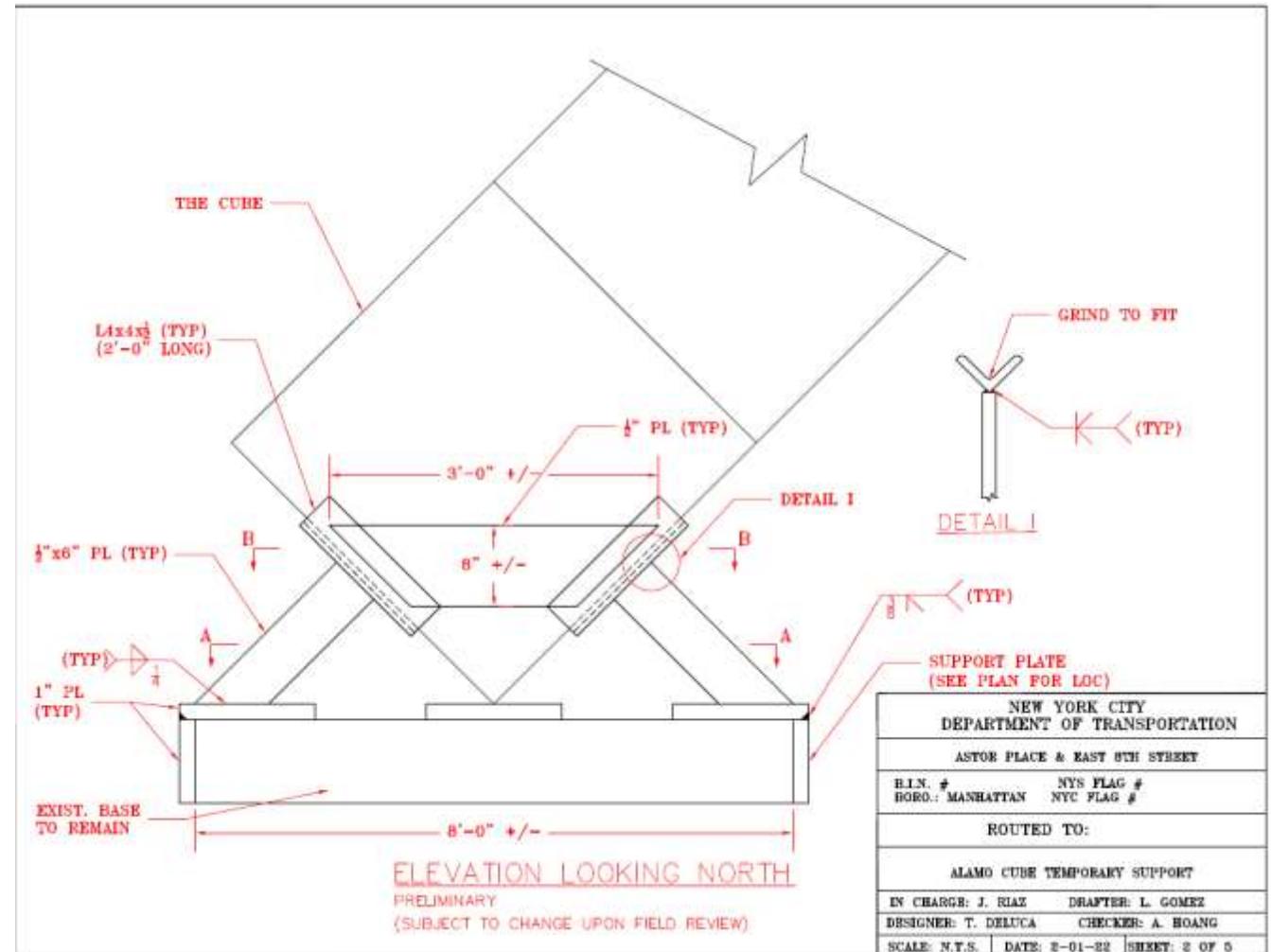
Versteeg Art Fabricators LLC (VAF) conducted an external and internal inspection of the sculpture and recommended immediate action.



# Temporary Stabilization

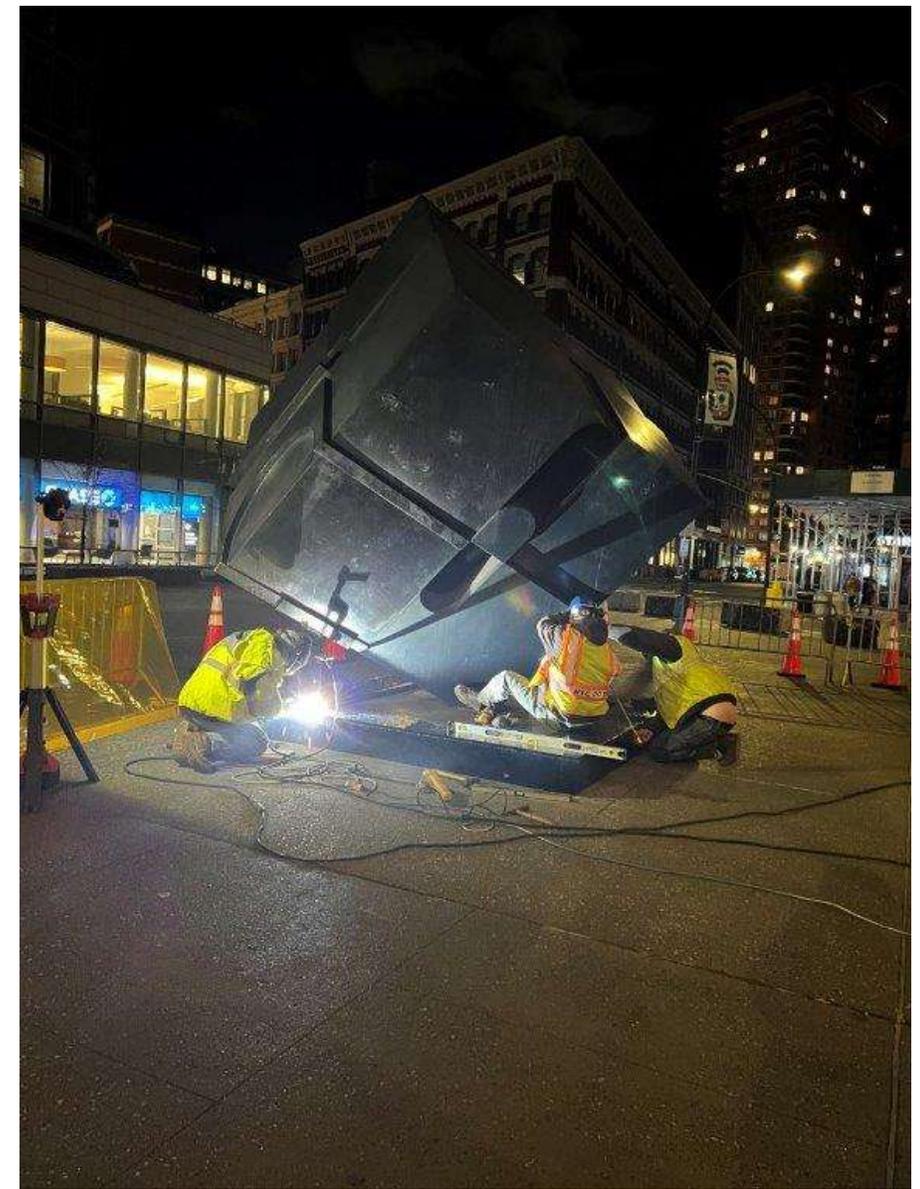
DOT Bridges Engineering Review developed an interim stabilization method to hold the sculpture in place.

A bracket system was developed to stop the sculpture from spinning and prevent additional structural damage.



# April 2022

DOT Bridges welded and attached brackets onsite.



# Current Conditions



# January 2023



# January 2023 Inspection

- DOT is working in close coordination with Tony Rosenthal Art LLC (Artist Estate) to gift services to repair the sculpture.
- Tony Rosenthal Art LLC hired Versteeg Art Fabricators LLC (VAF) to conduct a second comprehensive external inspection of sculpture.

- VAF reported that conditions have continued to deteriorate since 2021.



Figure 3. Bearing plate October 2021.



Figure 4. Bearing plate January 2023.



Figure 5. Top of Cube, missing cover

# Previous Conservation Issues

## Lubrication

Due to improper lubrication system, sculpture is in danger of failure and spinning mechanism is compromised. Grease fitting installed by Aegis Restauro in 2016 does not penetrate through the top plate for proper lubrication.

VAF proposal does not depend on grease fitting but instead will use a Teflon washer to protect the plates while spinning.

## Steel plates

Steel plates were welded to the interior by Aegis Restauro to thicken material. The effort to thicken has accelerated corrosion by providing crevice for water to accumulate.

VAF will replace with new Cor-ten steel patches.

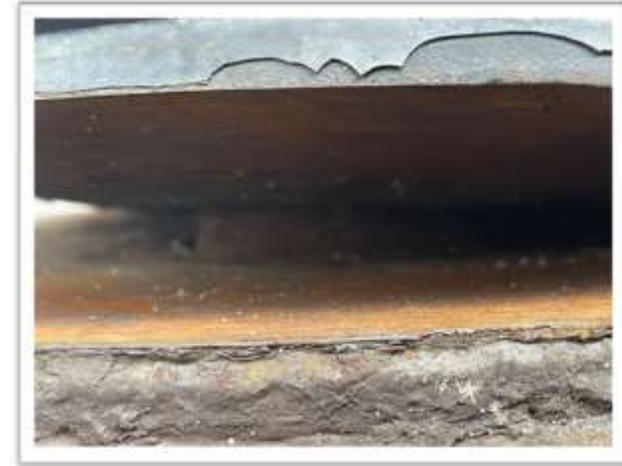


Figure 2. Bent bearing plate, revealing inside of pivot point.



Figure 7. Thickened corners showing advanced corrosion

# Versteeg Art Fabricators Proposal

Teflon washer will fix spinning mechanism.

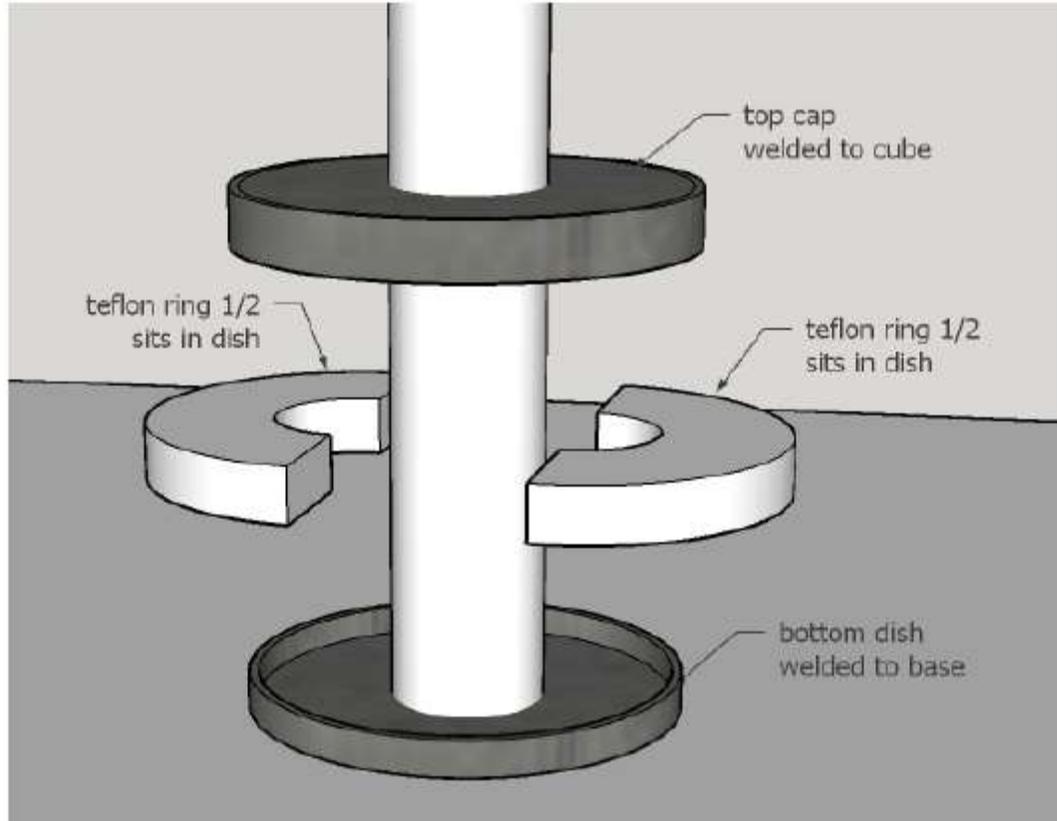


Figure 11. Diagram of washer insertion.

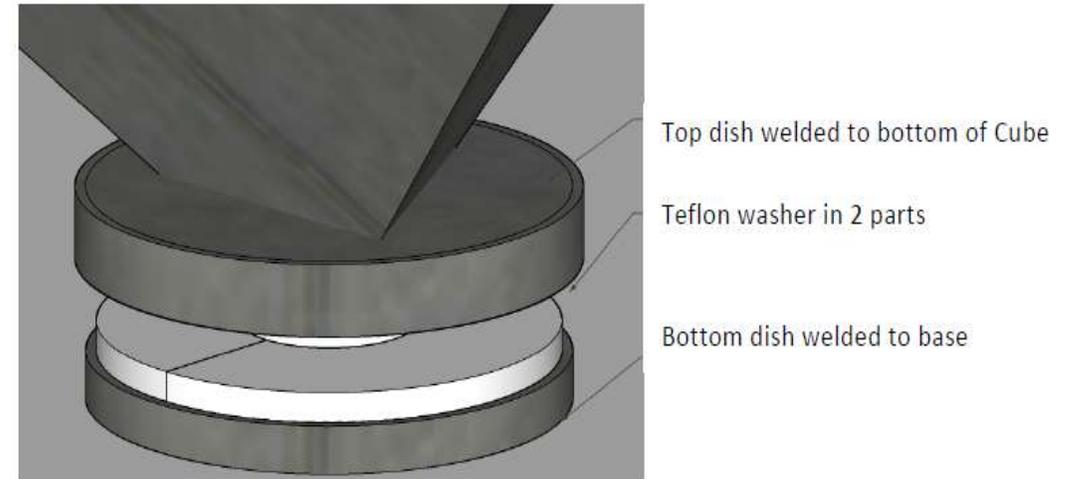


Figure 10. Diagram of Teflon washer and top and bottom dishes

# Versteeg Art Fabricators Proposal

Base plate will be reinforced and repaired.

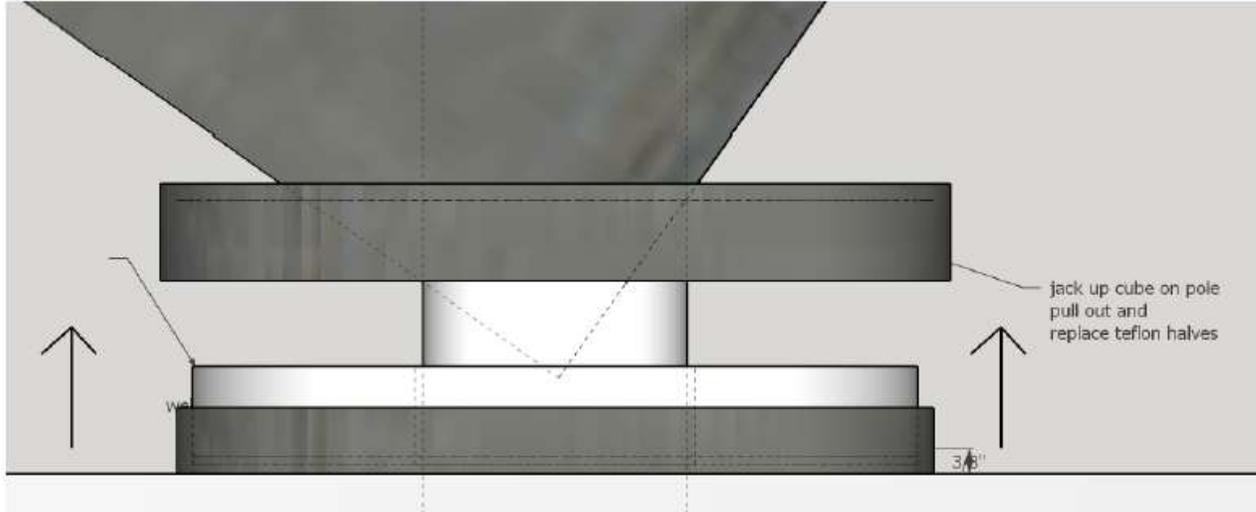


Figure 13. Lift cube along post and replace Teflon washer halves.

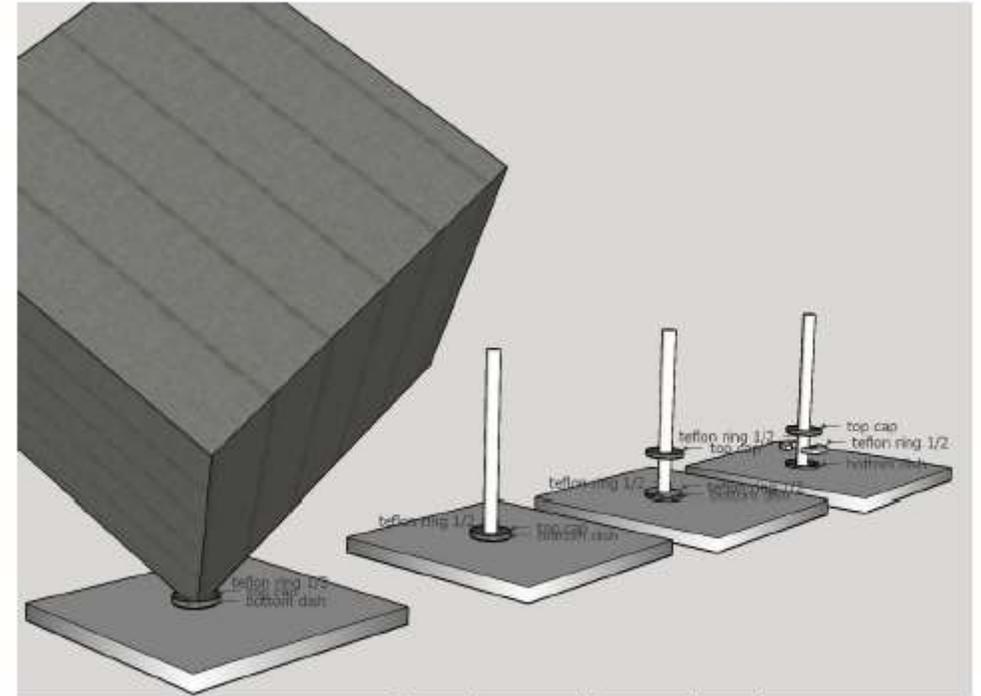


Figure 14. View of post, bearing dishes, and washer.

# Week-long Display at Hamptons Fine Art Fair



# Artist Hall of Fame 2023 Awardee

Tony Rosenthal will be recognized as an honorary inductee into the Hamptons Art Fair Artists Hall of Fame.

Request from Tony Rosenthal Art LLC to display artwork at the Hamptons Fine Art Fair to broaden the notoriety of the artwork/artist outside of NYC and celebrate award.

Tony Rosenthal has strong ties to the Hamptons community where he permanently resided and managed a studio through his death in 2009.



# Hamptons Fine Art Fair

The Hamptons Fine Art Fair is an annual fair that represents more than 100 art galleries from around the world and takes place at the Southampton Fairgrounds in New York.

As part of conservation efforts Tony Rosenthal Art LLC, requests to take advantage of the unique opportunity to display the sculpture for a week-long exhibit. Sculpture will be on display at the fair from approximately July 10, 2023 – July 16, 2023, and reinstalled at Astor Place by July 17, 2023.

The fair is open to the public and costs a fee of fifteen dollars to attend.



# Timeline Proposal

- VAF will contract rigger and transport the sculpture to their fabrication and conservation site in Bethany, CT in April 2023.
- Complete work by July 2023.
- Transport sculpture to the Hamptons Fine Art Fair (July 10, 2023 – July 16, 2023) in Southampton, NY for one week display.
- On July 17, 2023, VAF will oversee re-installation at Astor Place Plaza.



2017

DOT to consider installation of signage at the plaza with information about conservation work.