



di Suvero Sculpture

Location: San Francisco, California
Client: City Arts Commission

Exterior Treatment of a Contemporary Sculpture

Mark di Suvero is an American abstract expressionist sculptor born in Shanghai, China in 1933. He came to the United States in 1941, and his first port of entry in the United States was San Francisco's Pier 40. He studied at San Francisco City College and later attended the University of California at Santa Barbara and Berkeley. His sculptures are mainly built from industrial I-beams that are welded and bolted together. He is a key figure in the development of postwar American sculpture, and his artwork is featured in museums and outdoor public settings around the world.

"Sea Change" was constructed in 1995 as a 70-foot tall, 10-ton, elegant and kinetic sculpture to serve as a gateway to the refurbished South Waterfront of San Francisco. Over years of exposure to direct sunlight, the paint coatings blached and, in some instances, failed, exposing the metal to the moist, salty sea air by the Bay that allowed corrosion to occur.

ARG Conservation Services worked with San Francisco's Arts Commission and Redevelopment Agency to provide conservation treatment to the sculpture. Treatment included removal of debris, cleaning all painted surfaces with a metal brush, and applying an epoxy primer and two surface coats to match the artist's original color. As the sculpture's size and shape necessitates, work was carried out with an aerial boom lift.

