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## Missing Ironworker Rejoins His Colleagues

By [JENNIFER 8. LEE](#)

The most unbending construction crew in city history is complete again after one of the ironworkers, bound in black plastic, was discovered Monday night behind a church in Queens.

Last night, the iron figure was retrieved by its sculptor, Sergio Furnari, who says he will return it to the 10 other ironworkers in his life-size depiction of a celebrated 1932 photograph of 11 ironworkers seated on a beam above the Rockefeller Center construction site.

The police called Mr. Funari on Monday night after the figure was found by a homeless man in the backyard of a church near 31st Avenue and 41st Street in Astoria. "He was laying there like someone basically tried to kill him," Mr. Furnari said. "It looks like they tried to hammer him down, against his arms, against his head, against everything. For sure, if they had done it to a human being, he might be in heaven already."

Mr. Furnari first reported the figure missing in January, after it was taken from a truck outside his studio in Long Island City. He has found the disappearance perplexing. The mystery still remains: Why?

"This whole time, I was looking at the original photo," he said. "In my head, I was like 'What did they do to you?' It's been like killing me. Where did they throw it out?"

He said he strolled by the river, wondering if the thieves had tossed it into the water. At times he started the process of forging a new sculpture, but gave up for lack of money. The sculpture, which the police fingerprinted when it was recovered, will require extensive repairs, Mr. Funari said. "I am going to try to bring him back to life. For sure they didn't kill his soul."