

## Artist Statement

: 'Workers of All Lands Unite', 'Amor Fati!' and 'White Out'

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In 2005, the BBC did a survey to determine the most famous and influential philosopher in the world. The leading vote getter was Karl Heinrich Marx (1818-1883), a philosopher, an economist, and a social revolutionist. It has been over 100 years since the death of Marx and his colleague, Friedrich Engels (1820-1895), who shared his economical and philosophical ideas. A century later, their works, 'Das Kapital,' 'Manifest der Kommunistischen Partei (The Communist Manifesto)' and their ideology of 'Marxism' continue to hold sway.

Vladimir Lenin, the leader of Russian Revolution of October 1917, laid the foundation of Communism based on Marxism. The illusionary ideals and visions of Marx and Engels once adopted by or imposed upon nations, divided the World into the opposing ideologies of Capitalism and Communism leading to geopolitical divisions and an inevitable Cold War. With the economic collapse of Russia and Eastern Europe in 1990s, the influence and appeal of Marxist Communism has waned.

On the contrary, the inevitable collapse of Capitalism as predicted by Marx, has yet to occur. While still flourishing, it is far from perfect alternative. Despite attempts to harness and fine tune the Capitalist engine, the present worldwide financial crisis manages to illuminate the flaws within the system. Without a unified approach to regulating consumption, production, currency rates, employment levels, and debt, nations are experiencing a disruption throughout the social strata as the economic disparity between the rich and the poor increases. As nations fight to avoid falling into bankruptcy, World leaders attempting to regulate and course correct the global economy face significant challenges as they attempt to balance their national self-interest with the interests of others.

However, where does the Communism stand today, in this powerful capitalistic society? Their predictions have proven wrong, as Capitalism has forged ahead. In Germany, the motherland of Marx and Engels, particularly in Berlin, where their philosophical principal was initiated, there is a park called Marx-Engels-Forum. The Marx-Engel-Forum, once included in East Germany, was constructed by the authorities of the former German Democratic Republic (GDR) on 4 April 1986. In the centre of a circular surface of 60 meters of diameters stands two sculptures of Ludwig Engelhardt. the bronze figures of both Karl Marx (height of 2,77 meters) and Friedrich Engels (height of 3,07 meters), weight each 2 tons, on a flat base.

Soon after the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the Federal Republic of Germany took a vote on an issue of existence of Marx and Engels statues. Due to many of Berliner's assent to the existence, we still can see the original Marx and Engels statue from the East German period.

However, in Sep 2010, their fate was to move to a new position across the city because of a new subway construction, which caused the expansion of a city with urban planning. Such like the epitaph of Karl Marx reads 'Workers of All Lands Unite', all laborers united to dig, and measure the statue and stick spots on their forehead like Indians. Finally, the statues of Marx and Engels flew to the sky by crane and settled down in the new place. In the past, they were looking East toward Alexanderplatz, which is surrounded by several notable structures during the GDR period, including the Fernsehturm (TV Tower), the second tallest structure in Europe. After moving into their new place, they are now looking toward the West, the symbol of the Capitalism.

If they were alive, what would they think of this twisted exchange or conception of their new position? Perhaps, one might take a look and study this situation? Ludwig van Beethoven, composed Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67, which I used in my video work 'Amor Fati'. In speaking of the first four notes of the opening movement, Beethoven said, some time after he had finished the symphony: "So pocht das Schicksal an die Pforte" ("Thus Fate knocks at the door"). Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, who said "God is Dead", also said "Amor Fati (Love of your fate)".

Mr. Marx and Engels,  
Thus Fate knocks at the door! so Love of your Fate! Amor Fati!