

To whom it may concern

Berlin, 03.12.2018

EXPERT OPINION

I have extensive professional experience as an author, publisher and curator of Graffiti and Urban Art projects in Germany. From 1986-2018 I authored 12 books on graffiti and urban art and published 52 books on this topic. I have curated various international urban art exhibitions and projects. I run From Here To Fame Publishing as CEO.

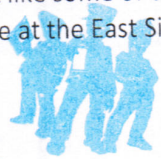
In response to Attorney Matei's request to provide an Expert Opinion regarding the value of the graffiti piece under consideration by this Court, and the context in which it has been performed, including its support, please find below my observations.

The back side of the Wall was plain grey. On the front there were some traces of old graffiti, especially on the left piece. It looks like part of a "throw-up", a graffiti painted very quickly to mark one's name on trains or walls. No graffiti writer expects it to last. A throw-up is not seen as a piece of art or as something to be reproduced or protected. If the graffiti had not been in such a state, I might even have been able to find the original artist. But they were very damaged and of no historic value. Most probably, in a few years, they will completely fade away. The three chunks of the wall themselves also seem to have been already severely damaged after the fall of the wall by people picking pieces as souvenirs. It is obvious that the three pieces were not together on the original wall but separated.

I understand that that the segments of the wall gifted to Seoul have a symbolic meaning. However it has to be taken into consideration that there are many pieces of the wall left in Berlin. They are not handled as national treasures, decay in landfills, and are painted over all the time. At the same time, many original pieces, including those offered as gifts to other countries have been painted with officially contracted-graffiti work.

Myself and several original artist of the Berlin wall regret the removal of the graffiti by Taeyoung Jeong. Its message for peace and unity is the same wish as the gift by Berlin to Seoul had in 2005. It was a beautiful and meaningful work which could well have had an important historical meaning in the future, just like some of the pieces in Berlin have become a national treasure at the East Side gallery.


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