

WALTER BENJAMIN Meets THE Angel Of History OR

Sun. MARCH 2

at a standstill. dialectics



Angelus Novus



SUNDAY MARCH 2
10:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

When →
Where ↓

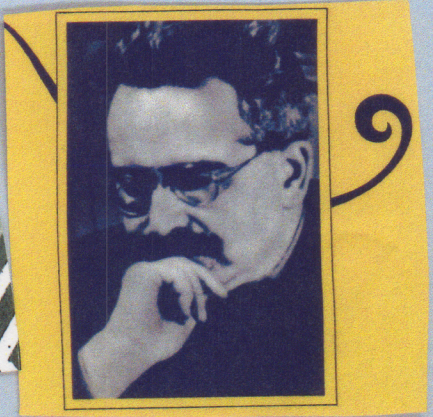
Niebyl Proctor Marxist Library 6501 Telegraph Ave. Oakland

A Klee painting named "Angelus Novus" shows an angel looking as though he is about to move away from something he is fixedly contemplating. His eyes are staring, his mouth is open, his wings are spread. This is how one pictures the angel of history. His face is turned toward the past. Where we perceive a chain of events, he sees one single catastrophe which keeps piling wreckage upon wreckage and hurls it in front of his feet. The angel would like to stay, awaken the dead, and make whole what has been smashed. But a storm is blowing from Paradise; it has got caught in his wings with such violence that the angel can no longer close them. This storm irresistibly propels him into the future to which his back is turned, while the pile of debris before him grows skyward. This storm is what we call progress.

Marx says, revolutions are the locomotives of world history. But perhaps it is really totally different. Perhaps revolutions are the grasp by the human race travelling in this train for the emergency brake.¹³⁸



WALTER BENJAMIN



Agessilaus Santander
near-anagram of "Der Angelus Satanas" (The Satanic Angel)