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The US has the largest prison population in the Western World.

TWO POETS & THEN A TRANSVESTITE TALE

Billy likes to justify the arrests from his checkered past simply as – a sign of the times – with a colorful tale of Ralph Waldo Emerson’s jail house visit with Henry David Thoreau. It’s said, the environmentalist languished in jail for an act of civil disobedience. When Emerson said he was surprised to find his friend in jail, Thoreau supposedly responded that he was surprised his friend wasn’t in jail. In these times, maybe we all should be in jail.

Billy was the first person arrested in the Student Strike to End the Vietnam War (See: Vol. 43). But long before that, he found himself in the Milwaukee County Jail for a youthful transgression alongside a colorful transvestite. She complained of being arrested simply for “dressing as a woman – even though women easily dress as men.” Those were far less tolerant times. Billy came away thinking this jail-mate committed only an affront to ever-evolving societal norms and was in essence a political prisoner.



Portrait of the Artist as Political Prisoner #3, Mississippi River, Pool 6 - off Latsch Island, near Winona, MN, Aug. 2019 Soloist: Billy X Curmano Photo: Margarita Baumann

UNAUTHORIZED PERFORMANCE(S)

Billy continues his good old “Unauthorized Performance Tradition” with not one, but two brand new series: *Portrait of the Artist as Political Prisoner* and *Unauthorized Book Signings*. Watch for random appearances randomly produced.

UNAUTHORIZED BOOK SIGNING #1

Billy’s *Futurism’s Bastard Son* was featured in his first *Unauthorized Book Signing* outside the Rourke Museum as a complement to the *60th Midwestern Invitational Exhibition Luncheon*. He’s no stranger to Fargo/Moorhead. His painting, *Night Vigil*, was in the exhibition and two previous performances, 1986 *Flight of the Penguin* and 1990 *Impervious Flag Demonstration*, are featured in the handsome volume. The latter even enjoyed a front-page color photo in the *Forum Newspaper* (See: Vol. 39). But you never can tell how an uninvited guest will be treated. The artist has been escorted out of numerous venues and even arrested.

The news release for the event came with the assurances, “No officials from the museum or the city authorized the signing” and “If you don’t have *Futurism’s Bastard Son* - No Worries - Billy will sign most anything”. It closed with, “No contact information available” and “Watch for signings in your neighborhood soon.”

His photographer and confederate, Margarita, sat nervously in the car with him discussing possible outcomes before the prescribed start time (11:30 am). He carried a tiny table and an alligator shaped sign - “Unauthorized Book Signing - *Futurism’s Bastard Son* - Today Only” followed by “Meet the Bastard”. They set up very quickly at the entrance to the courtyard as the curious guests passed, mostly ignoring them. The museum director, Jonathan Rutter, approached for a closer look. He examined a copy and eventually the artist and photographer were treated to a free lunch. It was graciously delivered, so as not to disrupt the two from their posts.

MEGA-SCANDAL at ART WORKS USA

William claims there is no staff! *The Fandango* is not written by admiring investigative journalists as Billy claims, but rather Billy himself writes the whole darn thing. “Ridiculous”, Billy and his large staff respond, “A Mega-scandal story like this wouldn’t see the light of day or ever be in print - if it was up to Billy.”

BILLY TO MELBOURNE or Up Over; Down Under

Artist and curator Nicolás Dumit Estévez Rafal organized the exhibition *As Far As the Heart Can See* with Billy’s lower river *Navigation Charts* on the gallery ceilings - kind of a heads up – but the show goes full circle and down under as it travels to Melbourne, Australia. That play on word was totally intended - (even if a bit forced). Nicolás collected a who’s who of performance artists in the New York City exhibition for the tenth anniversary of the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts Project Space (See: Vol. #44). He plans a somewhat revised version to open March 2021 in Melbourne, Australia.

Billy’s 2,367.4-mile Mississippi River Swim as performance and environmental statement was well represented. With a nod to Zen and stroke after tedious stroke - ad infinitum - raw video

footage from swimming the lower river *Cow Island Bend to De Soto Landing* played continually on a monitor. The didactic panel identified it as just “One of 215 Days”. Besides those ceiling navigation charts, a hand-colored set from 5-days of Crew-25 adorned the wall above his sculptural *Containment Case* for objects collected and created in the course of a swim. In a bit of a change up, live performances during the exhibition included “An evening with seminal and enigmatic performance artists Linda Mary Montano and Billy X Curmano” exploring death. He dusted off some material from his *Performance for the Dead* including Super-8 film and ancient images re-mastered for a fresh video. He added a new funeral urn and remembrance cards. The night was in conjunction with the New York City weeklong community-wide conversations on life and death, *Reimagine End of Life*.

MOSCOW MUSEUM OF MODERN ART discovers BILLY

Are you now or have you ever been a member of the communist party? “No, but I was once a *Wobblie”, says he. In a fleeting moment of international intrigue, Billy’s work penetrated Russia’s Moscow Museum of Modern Art (MMOMA). This wasn’t one of those exhibitions funded by the C.I.A. during the Cold War (See: Vol. 37). It was included in a performative lecture, *Fight of Art For Life*, by artist, curator and *Project 59* innovator, Irina Danilova.

Irina’s 1995 Soviet migration flipped to a conceptual language of 59 - years, hours, moments, highways, signage and so on – all perceived as art. Her *Project 59* is art - as well as a NY state nonprofit dedicated to providing alternative opportunities for unconventional and underrepresented artists from around the globe.

The line up of characters were all Franklin Furnace alumni with talk, video and images from Billy X. Curmano, Irina Danilova, Alison Knowles, Linda Mary Montano, Tehching Hsieh and Martha Wilson the founding director of that famous Furnace. Irina followed up with another performance lecture and FLUXUS Headquarter event at Moscow’s Zverev Center for Contemporary Arts and the 11th experimental sound art festival. Her *Fight of Art for Life* group expanded to include Jan Bas Ader, Vagrich Bachchanyan, George Brecht, George Maciunas, Jeff Perkins and Rino Telaro, for the *Prepared Wednesdays* event.

***Historical note:** The Wobblies, or Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), organized out of 43 groups in 1905 Chicago and preached “revolutionary industrial unionism”. They were the only American union in that era that welcomed all workers, including women, immigrants, African Americans and Asians. Billy and his Milwaukee print shop crew were card-carrying members.

PORTRAIT of the ARTIST as POLITICAL PRISONER

“I have imprisoned myself - masked and anonymous - in a chain link and aluminum performance sculpture for live art interventions at random locations - often in the streets or businesses - randomly selected. The chain-link elegance of the wearable, sculptural cell engulfs me as I slowly realize I have once again become the object. I am an animated self-portrait. *Portrait of the Artist as Political Prisoner* is a pop-up reminder of our precious freedoms contrasted with the plight of the world’s detainees, refugees, political prisoners and prisoners of conscience - the unseen – the unheard. Those who have spoken out for justice live alternative life styles or simply become victims of happenstance and are imprisoned. Add to that the children, elderly and infirm locked away in containment facilities. They have no voice, and so I DO NOT SPEAK. The audience may be ambushed, surprised and startled. But still, I DO NOT SPEAK. Some may even have felt threatened in some way. It became important to add an interpreter to calm hostility and illuminate issues of incarceration. The random appearances evolved to also include interventions by invitation. I was asked to walk the grounds of the Great Dakota Gathering for the first peoples of Winona, MN - the anonymous prisoner resonates in indigenous history.” – An Artist’s Statement - Billy X Curmano



Portrait of the Artist as Political Prisoner #5 and Poster of Same *AiOP*, 14th Street NYC, Oct. 2019, Photo: Margarita Baumann

Portrait of the Artist as Political Prisoner - Documentation

Performance #1, Rochester, MN Aug. 10, 2019 Elapsed time: approximately 60 minutes
 Performance #2, Food Co-op, Winona, MN Aug. 16, 2019 Elapsed time: 45 minutes
 Performance #3, Mississippi River, Pool 6, near Latsch Island (MN), Aug. 17, 2019 Elapsed time: 30 minutes
 Performance #4, Great Dakota Gathering by invitation, Winona, MN, August 24, 2019 Elapsed time: 45 minutes
 Performance #5, *Art in Odd Places*, 14th Street New York City, NY Oct. 17-20, 2019 Elapsed time: 9 hours over 3 days

ART IN ODD PLACES 2019: INVISIBLE

Art in Odd Places (AiOP) is an annual art event founded by Ed Woodham (See: Vol. 43) that occurs without the luxury of permits along Fourteenth Street just above the famed Village in New York City. Artists are simply forewarned of possible conflicts and advised on best practices. Billy and his eXpeditionary Art Adventure Team were keynote performers in 2017.

Portrait of the Artist as Political Prisoner was always intended for *Art in Odd Places 2019: INVISIBLE* - Curated by LuLu LoLo. The first interventions were a kind of dry run for 3-days of performance in New York City. An eXpeditionary Art Adventure Team - Margarita Baumann, Bella Via, Dr. Dave Christenson, Lilith Dorsey and violinist John Pendergast - served as interpreters and support. We were all thrilled and honored to have the prisoner image chosen for the poster, web site and staff badges of the fifteenth annual *Art in Odd Places: INVISIBLE*. The mute prisoner’s muteness, the lack of voice, was highlighted in a staged *Evening News New York* interview with well coiffed and blond-wigged Furusho von Puttkammer as reporter Suzanne Fettuccine. The attractive news anchor fired question after question only to be answered by her own musings. And still, HE DID NOT SPEAK.

BILLYOGRAPHY - The “Prisoner” image seems to get cameras a clicking. Besides the *AiOP* web site and blog (*Enzo Acquaviva interviews Billy X. Curmano*), here’s what we know of so far: *Brooklyn Street Art*, “Images of the Week” Oct. 20; *Untapped New York*, “14 New Public Art Installations to Discover in NYC” #6 (Oct-2019); Sidney Pereira, *Patch.com East Village Arts & Entertainment* (Oct. 1, 2019) and *Gotham to Go*.

Special thanks to Ed Woodam, LuLu LoLo and the *AiOP* team - Curatorial Manager, Anne-Marie Walsh, Curatorial Assistants, Katrina D. Jeffries and Savannah Pagán Fitzpatrick.

Portrait of the Artist as Political Prisoner was shaped by the weight of another series: *The Tiger Cage on Wheels*:

ARTIST’S STATEMENT *TIGER CAGE* (See: Vol. 40)
Tiger Cage on Wheels is a reminder of inhumanity and although it may be viewed as sculpture or art object, it becomes more effective when used in performance. Interaction of the cramped human form with heavy, rusted, welded steel bars moving through an environment creates a spectacle not easily forgotten. During its most active use, participants recorded their fear and distress, even though most of the confinements were voluntary. Although the cages on Kon Son Island that inspired it may no longer be timely, there is never a shortage of oppressive regimes to keep the *Tiger Cage* and treatment of prisoners topical.
 - Billy Curmano, Catalog Statement, *Oppression/Expression*, Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA, 1986 - Jurors: Leon Golub and Lowery S. Sims



Tiger Cage on Wheels, 33"x 36"x 45", welded steel, wheels & brakes, Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA 1986

ON BECOMING THE OBJECT

The Tiger Cage on Wheels is welded steel, large and heavy. I rode in it. I pulled others in it and documented most everything. I had to carry it in a truck or send it big bucks motor freight. (The *Tiger Cage* traveled to Milwaukee, West Bend and La Crosse, WI; Minneapolis and Winona, MN; St. Joseph, MI and New Orleans, LA.)
 It became too expensive to show. And yet, it seemed important. The wearable lock-up allows me the luxury of mobility. Each frozen moment may be viewed as a *Portrait of the Artist as Political Prisoner*. But something strange came over me while within it. In and around the *Tiger Cage*, I was more – “in performance”. This new enclosure... with no voice... made me realize... I have become the object.

MOTHER MARION PROJECT

It’s a little known fact - but more widely known now - Sainly Fan Club President Ex Officio Perpetuitas Marion Curman(o) (4/6/1913-6/15/2000) was an artist. She was also a mother and matriarch. Out of the goodness of her big heart, she often

supplied the Booth House collective with homemade soup. She created a body of work as a young woman in Madison, WI, but was interrupted by the “family” and only returned to making art in her later years. When she died, there was some confusion and a rush to clear her apartment. She had gifted loved ones with art over her lifetime, so her #3 of 4 sons thought everyone that would want her work already had some. #3 was headed to the incinerator with a lifetime’s box of drawings and paintings when #4 intercepted it. Burning art like burning books is hard to witness. After framing some favorites for friends and family, the box ended up drawing dust in the attic.

The Mother Marion Project was born. Billy has been sending randomly selected Marion Art to people that knew her... and that would appreciate the gesture. If you knew Marion and can prove it with a brief story or anecdote... and you would be interested in her art - contact us. Better hurry! There is a limited quantity and it’s at Billy’s personal expense - first come first served.



Skaters, Marion C, 4”x 8”, acrylic on board, circa 1980’s

ON GUARANTEEING WEDDED BLISS

If you can afford the \$500 officiant fee, Billy can pretty much assure wedded bliss or at least no divorce. He is a legally ordained minister and has performed weddings with absolutely NO DIVORCES to date. He is so confident that he offers this ironclad 100% lifetime guarantee: If a performance marriage officiated by the Very Reverend Billy X ever fails for any reason - other than the death of either party - and a divorce decree is executed and duly filed, he offers a full refund of said officiant fee.

NIGHT VIGIL (FLESH OF GOD)

Billy’s painting, *Night Vigil (Flesh of God)*, 2019, 12” X 24”, acrylic on stretched canvas, was featured through the summer in the *60th Midwestern Invitational Exhibition* at the Rourke Museum in Moorhead, MN. The work was new, but it evolved out of the past and travels into the future. The title comes from Mazatec Indians healing and divination ceremonies before the Spanish conquest. The mysterious red central figure with proportions drawn from that past stands amidst sacred mushrooms.

Billy discovered those proportions long ago as a young seeker. He stumbled upon an eighteenth-century pattern book with 36 ink drawings showing precise iconometric guidelines for depicting the “ideal image” of the Buddha and Bodhisattva figures. The intersecting lines created geometric patterns that became the basis for his watercolor study, *The Expanding Buddha*, with rectangles, triangles and squares that seemingly burst apart. He followed up with a more subdued limited edition silkscreen print, *Abstract Buddha with Canonical Proportions*. With the help of the Internet, Billy re-discovered the ancient text and borrowed the proportions for the central figure from one of the standing images without actually depicting the Buddha. Editors note: Buddhism is a practice - like daily exercise or yoga - not a religion. Tibetan Buddhism vow of the initiate: “To assist all sentient beings in their awakening and their enlightenment.”

Disclaimer: Billy identifies as agnostic and practices to become a better agnostic.

LAST TRANSMISSION, mixed media, 16" X 24", 2019
(Courtesy Witoka Marine Art Museum)

Billy's kinetic painting *Last Transmission* enjoyed the summer in the River Arts Alliance members' exhibition at the Blue Heron, Winona, MN. The sea and ship come alive with a little help from a handle in the lower right corner (See: pg 6). An animation will probably, eventually follow.

CLIMATE UPDATE... AS IF YOU HADN'T NOTICED

The National Centers for Environmental Information recorded 122,055 broken records for extreme weather incidents in the United States last year - temperatures, precipitation, hurricanes, tornadoes and fierce storm after storm. Additional temperature records were broken around the globe including 18,000 people hospitalized in a Japanese heat wave. Wildfires set records in California, 15 million acres burned in Australia and another 7 million in the Amazon rainforest. Trees produce oxygen - the planet's lungs are burning. That's nothing compared to the consequences if carbon emissions cannot be brought to zero by 2050. In a rare moment of international cooperation, all world leaders agreed to that goal in the Paris Climate Accord. But in November 2020, the USA with its huge carbon footprint will officially become the only nation in the whole world to reject the agreement.

I Think on These Things

The climate it's changing you best be aware
The climate it's changed you best not run scared
As climate changes we best be prepared
Our carbon footprint blankets the earth
Great power, wealth & greed what are they worth?
I ask are you conscious I ask can you see
A catastrophe and calamity
Rise up with the sea.
We've changes to make that really can work
To slow climate changes that threaten and lurk
Tell me you're conscious I know that you see
Responsibility & Sustainability
Tempers what would be
I think on the things that I do
Cause all things connect to all things
I think on what you do too
Our actions and reactions circulate in rings
Nothing stands by itself all alone
Our actions and reactions circulate in rings
With consequences often unknown
It's tipping time... we've drunk our wine
Ignoring those signs... of climate decline
Business as usual links to disaster
Catastrophic climate change comes much faster
I think on the things that I do
But I think on what you do too!

DON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP

We're all in this together hurtling through space on a blue globe three from the sun. We have allies, especially in our youth. Billy stepped out with the other kids for the Sept. 20 *Youth Climate Strikes* - 7 million strong worldwide. He's not new to this. He wore his 5-year old lab coat from the 2014 *Peoples Climate March* - 400,000 strong in New York City. The white coat is boldly emblazoned with a blue United Nations Logo and the message "World Leaders Do the Right Thing - Act on Climate" in black and red (See: Vol. 38). He posted that image - just the back, with a nice bouquet resting on his shoulder for Greta Thunberg. Later that evening, the latest version of *New X* with Billy, DL Hunt, Ed Lagace, Sean Dalton and Steve Smith, played to a full house at Broken World Records in a free jazz environmental, anti-war and social justice frenzy. The climate is changed and it keeps right on changing. Some people think it's too late, can't stop it - so, who cares, why bother and what's the point. Here's the point - perhaps, the changes can't be stopped - but maybe mitigated - just slowed

enough to give our fragile species a precious moment to catch our collective breath. Time to prepare for extinctions, climate refugees, flood walls and infrastructure change. There have been countless animals killed in wild fires many more due to loss of habitat and those climate changes. We are witnessing the Sixth Mass Extinction, the Anthropocene or human driven extinction. Listen to the Gill Boy:

"Do any of you know what it's like to be one of a kind? The last of a species? Or the only one of a species? I do... Or what happens when you take the last one? On Easter Island there are no trees. There used to be trees on Easter Island. Someone cut down that last tree. What were they thinking when they cut that last tree?" - Billy as Muck Minnow from *Muck Minnow the Gill Boy* first performed Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis, 1998. More recently Jared Diamond's 2005 book, *Collapse*, tells about human populations that recognized serious environmental disasters and failed to stop them or protect their societies from collapse. He mentions the 18th Century Easter Island example as people aware of the importance of trees, but without the will to stop cutting.



Bouquet for Greta, Youth Climate Strike, Winona, MN, 2019

The Coming Collapse: "It is impossible for any doomed population to grasp how fragile the decayed financial, social and political system is on the eve of implosion." - Chris Hedges, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, in Truthdig.com. Will the United States collapse? Will other societies collapse? Could our species join the extinction? The signers of the Paris Accord knew Climate Change is the biggest threat to civilization, as we have known it. It impacts the entire world and is on par with a World War. The International Energy Agency estimates the US spends only .03% of its economy on clean energy research. To win World War II, 30% of the US economy was dedicated to huge Research & Development programs with many goods freely shared and given away to our allies. That's what's needed - R & D, green tech, energy conservation and carbon sequestration with moon landing, world war urgency.

Never give up. Even extinction isn't necessarily a done deal. The "Lazarus Species" have not gone easily into that cold, dark night. The Black-footed ferret, horned marsupial frog and Fernandina giant tortoise all thought extinct, are back, somehow returned from the dead. Perhaps, they were just lying low.

The American Dream - Everyone can have or be whatever they want. Billy says, "I identify as a tall, dark and handsome, mixed breed (1/2 Italian and 1/2 indigenous American-Afro-Latinx person of color) extremely wealthy international super-star artist, movie and rock star with a humongous Hollywood mansion - currently relaxing in a quaint Minnesota art studio."

MOTHER MAY I... EAT MEAT?

Maybe, in balance with Regenerative Organic Agriculture

The annual worldwide farming and slaughter of 50 billion animals for meat leaves a huge carbon footprint. It's been estimated eating 4 pounds of beef contributes as much to climate change as flying from New York to London. Problems with a meat-centric diet include the emissions, land use, crop consumption and water pollution for an inefficient source of protein. It's exacerbated as more of the world adopts rich first world habits. A report in *Science* even suggested avoiding meat and dairy as the "single biggest way" to reduce your environmental impact.

But whoa and wait a minute omnivores - you don't have to go all vegan or vegetarian. It's that 50 billion animal number. It's slash and burn the Amazon for fast food franchises. It's how the animals are raised and processed as a profit-driven corporate commodity on factory farms. It's how meat is pushed to levels of over consumption. There are plenty of hillsides and other untillable areas suitable for grazing. Small family farms could responsibly supply lower and occasional meat diets and dairy. Unfortunately, they are increasingly going belly-up unable to compete with multinational agribusiness and a corporate dictated food economy - with "get big or get out" and "adapt or die" philosophies. China Pork owns meatpacking giant Smithfield Foods that in turn owns one in four hogs across Iowa and America - the CEO made \$291 million in 2017 while American farmers filed for bankruptcy. Venture capital-backed startups and big meat conglomerates including Smithfield and Tyson are in the act with highly processed fake meat. Other labs are extracting cells from tissue, blood, chicken embryos, cattle and fish then cooking it with a dash of hormones, a pinch of chemicals and a dollop of growth agents for a yummy "food-grade cell-growth medium" or maybe Frankenmeat.

Regenerative organic agriculture has been shown to sequester carbon while providing larger yields. Good practices: Protecting and improving the water cycle, minimal soil disruption, crop rotation, composting, biodiversity and allowing animals to pasture - eating while fertilizing - mimics natural herds and improves the land. Put the farmers back in the saddle. Omnivore, vegetarian, vegan - Forget the labels, but think regenerative organic agriculture and sustainability.

ON PROTECTING CORPORATE PSYCHOPATHS

Psychopathic corporations are running rough shod over concerned citizens that expose their sins and malfeasance. Corporations can own property, open bank accounts, buy and sell goods, but an absurd 2010 "Citizens United" decision reversed a century of legal understanding. For the first time, corporate big bucks donated to political candidates were protected as free speech - rather than simply bribes. The American political process spiraled downward as corporations were given the same rights as people. But what kind of people? Like psychopaths, corporations serve only their own interests to generate profit. To that end, many of them lie, cheat, lack feelings of empathy, guilt and remorse - common signs of psychopathy. Bottom line greed drives their disregard for communities, workers, the environment, climate change and the ever growing plastic monster. They are expert at tax dodging, unsafe-low-pay conditions and abandoning loyal workers for cheap overseas labor.

Fast forward to Jan. 2018. The secretive American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) constructed a model bill - the *Critical Infrastructure Protection Act* to stifle protest and the right to peacefully assemble. The misleading title sounds no-brainer-must-pass and like dominoes, state houses are blindly falling one by one to protect corporate greed over citizens' concerns for health, livelihood and the environment. The new laws criminalize cherished rights guaranteed in the constitution. The protesters can be charged with "criminal interference with critical infrastructure" - an infrastructure defined so widely - it includes a corporate hog facility, a factory farm.

Mni Wiconi - When the Standing Rock Sioux defended their sacred lands from the Dakota Access Pipeline they were named "destructive trespassers" interfering with corporate operations. Ironically, the pipeline itself is the trespasser. Remember, it's not if it will leak, it's when. Corporations are sometimes fined or made to pay for clean-ups, but to them - with enormous bottom lines - it's just the cost of doing business and don't be fooled if they change to a greener name or add a leaf to their logo. Corporate powers increase every hour, but there is no head to put on a plate and no body to incarcerate. As the queen once said, "Off with their heads." - "Off with their collective heads."

FIRST US RIVER GRANTED RIGHTS On a more positive personhood note: Last May, the Yurok Tribe passed a resolution granting the Klamath River that flows from Oregon through Northern California to the Pacific the "rights of personhood" or legal standing. It was a first US river to gain that protection, but a Maori tribe had set the precedent. They won New Zealand's longest litigation battle when their Te Awa Tupua River was recognized as an ancestor. Two rivers in India followed suit and were also accorded the status of human entities (See Vol. 42).

BILLYOGRAPHY - PUBLICATIONS FOR YOU

Billy must have been out to lunch for volume #7 and unaware of any before #5, but he's in the latest edition of *Emergency Index Vol. 8* with *Dissociative Identity Dilemma*, Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts Project Space, NYC (See: Vol. #44). He's also in previous volumes with the *Rolling Nap* in #5 and *Time Be My Bitch* in #6. It's a "Bible" of performance art and an annual compilation of live art from around the world in about 600 pages. The artists' use their own words and a single image to represent a single work. The *Index* is indexed by contributors, terms and places. It's collected, published and "lovingly hand packed" by the Ugly Duckling Presse in Brooklyn, NY. Support the concept and get some copies for yourself or be saintly and buy your library a copy at UglyDucklingPresse.com

The P Word is a limited edition publication conceived and edited by Nicolás Dumit Estévez Rafal to document a process-based experiment that rethought the Critical Practices Inc. NYC exhibition space as a playground (See: Vol. 42). He asked Billy to join him for an evening in the series.

Nicolás says of it, "All possible attempts to turn the art experience into an object were counteracted by the slippery contours of the seemingly absurd activities of the program, as well as by their ephemerality. It dispelled the need for performance art to rely on audiences, as it required voyeurs to become co-creators. It also challenged an unquestioned system that funnels endless supplies of art goods, as opposed to experiences, onto our already burdened planet."

On Valentine's Day, Nicolás and Billy invited lesbian, gay, bi, trans, intersexual, pansexual, queer, polysexual, ecosexual, questioning, asexual, hetero... individuals to join for exercises followed by cake and a glass of red wine. Billy cast the I-Ching 9 times over 9 days to guide instructions for 9 movements for 9 yet unknown participants. Basically, everyone arrived meditated and laughingly followed the simple exercises. Afterwards, they feasted on a *P 59 Dinner* prepared by Project 59er Irina Danilova and her accomplice Hiram Levy. *P Word*: 100 copies, 12-page accordion book 6 1/2" x 8" opens to 39" - Design: Susan Bowman - Printing: Will Cameron - To purchase: info@criticalpractices.org or idioclaro@hotmail.com

FUTURISM'S BASTARD SON

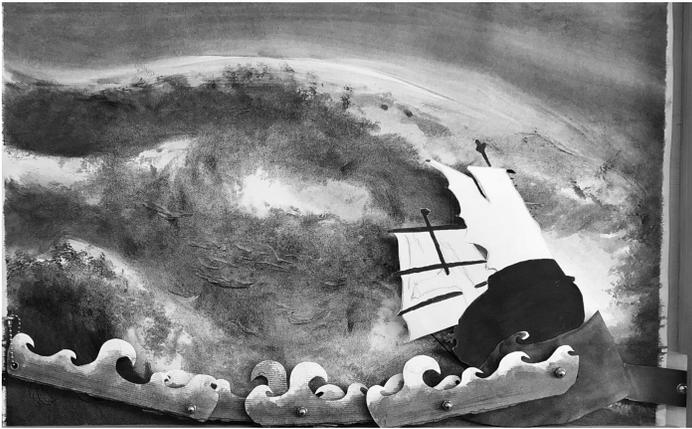
Mark Pezinger Verlag published *Futurism's Bastard Son* in Vienna Austria awhile back. It's available from them as well as other fine retailers. But Billy gets a bigger cut if you order it at the billyx.net web store. It documents decades of work in words, pictures, intimate musings and sly humor. The Italian Futurists are charged with inventing performance art, so Billy - son or false son - demands his inheritance in that title.

The European release was parallel to *Documenta 13* in Kassel Germany followed by the US release at the NY Art Book Fair, at the Museum of Modern Art PS 1 - Design: Astrid Seme - 128 letter size pages, 115 gram Munken Lynx paper, stitched thread binding and French Flap covers.

INCIDENTALS around Winona town

Billy performed an hour-long solo dulcimer concert in-gallery at the MN Marine Art Museum surrounded by master works. It was kind of a throwback to his solo incidental music series for the Minneapolis Art Institute. Moving on, he shared some river tales from his *Swim* and the *River Rap* at Public Launch for Lyon Smith's *Story Teller* Installation.

He performed *When We Were Wagin' War* and *I Think on These Things* along with thoughts on war for Prof. Tomas Tolvais' WSU Vietnam History Class. And finally, Billy's band of New Xers, Sean Dalton, DL Hunt, Ed Lagace and Steve Smith, made an appearance at the Mid West Music Fest disguised as Whirling Eddies.



Last Transmission, Billy X, mixed media, 16" X 24", 2019
(Courtesy Witoka Marine Art Museum)

MONUMENT TO STUPIDITY #1 (See: billyx.net)

The Monument to Stupidity #1 construction hit a snag due to budgetary and time constraints. The concrete block and steel slat wall planned for the Witoka Contemporary at Art Works USA is planned for 2020. Information or to contribute go to the store on billyx.net - you can get lots of Billy stuff there.

THE CORPORATION, Joel Bakan's book and the award winning documentary film are still available:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y888wVY5hwz>

Other Sources: *The Week, The Hill, Mother Jones, In These Times, The Hightower Lowdown*, -Greenpeace, Sierra, Earthjustice, NRDC etc. - "The Earth needs a good lawyer."

WEB SITES:

Justice/Prisons: thejusticecollaborative.com theappeal.org
Secretive ALEC: AleceExposed.com
Food: OrganicConsumers.org/usa CompetitiveMarkets.com
Fossil fuel pollution: Polluterwatch.org

* You will eat, bye and bye,
In that glorious land above the sky;
Work and pray, live on hay,
You'll get pie in the sky when you die.

- Joe Hill (IWW organizer)

Your INVITATION To FUN & ADVENTURE

The Billy X. Curmano Fan Club

If you enjoy contemporary artist Billy X. Curmano, here's a great way to stay abreast of his projects. Join the discriminating crowd and become a member of Billy's own Fan Club. Send the form, all correspondence and annual membership dues to:

ART WORKS USA 27979 COUNTY ROAD 17
WINONA, MN 55987 RING: 507.452.1598
billyx.net@gmail.com

Momma Curman, President Ex Officio Perpetuitas
Kimberly Haedtke, Vice President Emeritus

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

\$2 CHEAPO: Wallet size membership card - some mailings.
\$15 IRREGULAR: As above, plus well wishes from all of us.
\$25 REGULAR: As above, plus a handsome wall certificate.
\$50 DELUXE: As above, plus Great Moments In Performance Art Non-adhesive stamp series. All appropriate club mailings.
\$250 DELUXE PLUS: As above, plus original print.
\$750 SUPER DELUXE: As above, plus gift certificate and weekend vacation at Scenic Art Works USA (travel from Winona, MN included).
\$1500 SAINT: As above, plus vacation extended 1 week.
\$5000 BUDDY: As above, plus 1 of Billy's special pizzas and Billy will pal around with you for 1 week.

Institutional rate: Add 20% surcharge for 2 newsletters. 1 to circulate - 1 to archive. **Family rate:** Add 10% and the whole family gets membership cards. Make checks payable **Art Works USA**. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Premium substitutions may

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Okay Kimberly! I just can't wait; here are my first year ANNUAL dues. I want to join Billy X. Curmano's Fan Club.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Signature _____

Membership Type _____ \$ _____ date _____

Add E-mail and we might send up-dates and so on.