



Vol. #48

"The Fandango is art history because it was written & comes to you from the past"

2023

WWW.BILLYX.NET

THE DRIFTLESS... ART WORKS USA...or...

We don't need no glacial drift. Thousands of years ago, this small driftless section of SE Minnesota where Art Works USA now stands was spared from glaciations - along with SW Wisconsin and bits of NW Illinois and NE Iowa. The tell tale glacial drift is absent - we are driftless. A deeper dive reveals not just one, but two earlier glacial eras spared this land as well. Sacred? Blessed? Coincidence? We rest on a biblically beautiful bluff above the Mississippi River just upstream from where Rev Van Slyke declared in print, *Found at Last: The Veritable Garden of Eden* (1886). Destiny delivered us. Like the Lakota, Ojibwe and their Psinomani ancestors who were here first, we've taken refuge from the storm. Billy's no thief. If this is stolen land - Maybe the bank and realtor should go to jail for selling stolen property? (See: Vol. 46 Rights of Discovery vs. Stolen Lands)

COLLECTIVIST SOLAR

A small lot with majestic cottonwoods made a solar array impractical for Art Works USA. Undaunted, we joined a community solar garden and eliminated the costs of design, installation and maintenance, while still decreasing our carbon footprint.

"Individual actions are multiplied by the number of individuals; the fist becomes war the handshake much more". A Tombstone Epitaph Excerpt - *Performance for the Dead*

MY LIFE WITH WILLY III & THE NYC RELIQUARY

Willy's full color, ¼-page "Spiritualist" ad that promised, "Answers to Life's Persistent Questions" brought a bit of blowback to *Big River* magazine. It ruffled a loyal subscriber's feathers. She questioned its appropriateness and even cast doubt on Willy's second sight. A tip of the hat to editor in chief Reggie McLeod for his deft preening and another to Anna Nirva for tweaking the final layout.

But the poster version caught famed inspector collector Harley Spiller's eye. He requested a copy for his *Archives of Fortune Teller Handbills and Related Materials*. Willy is now enshrined at the permanent repository of the New York City Reliquary Museum in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Here's hoping the acquisition doesn't go to Willy's already somewhat swelled head.

Looking back, Billy and Willy began 2022 zooming with their friends at Franklin Furnace in a 3-minute performance to celebrate Linda Mary Montano's 80-Birthday. Looking way way back, Billy first met Linda and a who was who in performance art at an L.A. Chinese restaurant round table lunch. Looking a little less way back - in 2018 - the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts presented "An evening with seminal and enigmatic performance artists Linda Mary Montano and Billy X Curmano" (See: Vol. #44). The Billy Willy Zoom

linked in with 3-minute live segments from an international array of artists; organizations and Linda's own videos to form a 21-hour endurance broadcast. (Jan. 18 - Jan. 19)

Willy followed up with a sweet card:

"Dear Linda, I love you. This is me & poppa & momma. I am your fan. Will you please send me your picture?"

The card joined E.A.R.T.H. Lab's postal art project *LOVE LETTERS TO LINDA*. He included a signed poster with an inset image of his parents' burlesque team, *William and Wanda Why*. He still awaits that picture with bells on.

"Dummy, Doll, Wooden Head" - Ventriloquial figures have faced name-calling, discrimination, persecution and often confinements in dank suitcases. They've been unfairly portrayed as scary and vicious creatures in TV and film tales - so much so - that when Billy and Willy first greeted L'il Eva, a darling 8-year old neighbor girl, she screamed with horror. Like most prejudices, her fears stemmed from a false perception and unfamiliarity with "the other". After L'il Eva met Willy, he easily won her over and they became friends. She asks about him when he's away and awaits his visits. But, Willy's good nature may not be enough to protect him from anti-vent-tites! He's prone to wise cracks, but that's not all - he pokes at all hate mongers as self-appointed president of *Vents Against... Discrimination*. That puts him at great risk. Willy is kind and gentle and wants to stay that way. He's not so dumb to want a gun. He found a bodyguard instead. Eddy is a small, but ferocious teddy bear, protector and BFF.

Billy's collaboration with Willy Willy Why has entered its third year and joins his catalog of time based experimental work. His extended performances play with minutes that may stretch to days, months and even years. Highlights included a 3-day live burial, 11-season, 2,367.4-mile Mississippi River Swim and a 40-day juice and water fast in Death Valley. *My Life With Willy* continues the tradition and is anticipated to shadow Billy all the way to the grave - and just maybe - then some - and for really real this time.

Willy was rescued from a captive life alternating between a dark and stuffy suitcase and a bible preacher's bony knee. He lived as a prop entertaining and teaching naïve children morals through Iowan corn bred one-liners, rhymes and the holiest of all jokes. After his ransom was negotiated and paid, Willy left the suitcase and preaching behind. (See: Vol. 46 & 47)





Ante up (Willy & Eddy) Photo: Margarita Baumann

Willy, Billy and Eddy closed out December 2022 with an unauthorized performance at the Winona Arts Center during the River Arts Alliance Art Walk. The trio opened 2023 with a zoom performance and studio tour in collaboration with famed artist and curator Nicolás Dumit Estévez Raful Espejo Ovalles for the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Texas, Austin. Here's the unscripted, unedited, 54 min. tour: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ff4jYmQBjqk>

WHO'S AN ARTIST???

An artist's life may look glamorous, but there's more to it than that. We aren't highfalutin elitists but if everyone is an artist, than no one is an artist. The term loses any and all practical meaning. Everyone is an artist probably evolved from that "feel good" era when it was decreed children are too thin skinned to accept criticism... and everybody gets a trophy. Failing grades, being held back was too hurtful for the little darlings whether they understood the material or if they hadn't a clue. Those "Feely goods" infected adults as well. Anyone and everyone that opened a tube of paint or sang a song became an artist or performer and that was that. There may be creativity in everyone, but - "Just because the water runs when you turn the tap. That doesn't necessarily make you a plumber." – Billy X

DIE AT THE RIGHT TIME – thus spake Zarathustra (Friedrich Nietzsche) Billy is finally filing an *Advance Directive* in preparation for his most exciting performance and final act, *On Death's Door*, with an inevitable follow up and departure. In the Who cares? Why Bother? & What's the point? Category he's added this clause "**DO NOT**

RESUSCITATE" unless there's word from Carnegie Hall". If final arrangements taunt you, ten bucks will get you a handy *Apocalyptic Fashion and Etiquette Guide* with practical tips for protocol, manners and the nuts and bolts of what-to-say- & -what-to-wear-to-meet-your-Maker. Better add \$5 for postage and handling (Total: \$15).

ELDERS AND ELDER ARTISTS

You can have a sexual preference, you can pick a pronoun, you can even pick your nose, but those years are kind of hardwired. Age bias is probably the last acceptable discrimination. Racist, Blonde, Polish, Gay - those jokes are all out the window. But - the doddering old fool is still alive and well in monologues, sitcoms and so on. Much to his (and our) surprise, Billy is an elder. But, are there *Artist Opportunities* for elder artists? It seems to be all about emerging artists these days. Don't get us wrong, we wholeheartedly support opportunities and funding for early career artists, but let's not forget or neglect mentors and pioneers. And what does emerging even mean? Until an artist becomes a celebrity - or has a solo retrospective in a major institution - he, she or they are probably still emerging. Billy first learned about art from an androgynous rabbit and like that rabbit he's androgynous... and not easily offended. He or she simply doesn't care how he or she is addressed or what pronouns are used.

Emerging Billy saw the arc of culture. He went after the elders he admired. He spent time with John Cage, Rachel Rosenthal, Babatunde Olatunji and so many more. They were gracious in sharing their stories. Stories of chances taken, successes and failures that helped him carve his own path. He fondly recalls Helen Frankenthaler's "follow your heart" advice from a late night meeting in a New York City hotel.

See: <http://www.ElderArtistsLegalResource.org>

SIGNATURES FOR A BUCK – Posters! Posters! Posters!

Billy has designed more posters than you can shake a stick at. You've got your band posters, nonprofits, anti-war and social justice organizations and of course his own exhibitions and performances. We're archiving, cleaning house and offering over runs of these dandy photo-offset gems to friends, fans and detractors alike absolutely free of charge. Individual selections may be made by appointment at Art Works USA. If you happen to be a discerning collector - you can upgrade to a signed copy. Billy will provide his authentic artist's signature for your posters and even what-not-have-you - for just a buck per Billy X.

If you can't make the pilgrimage to Art Works, take a chance on our postal art "Mysterioso package". We choose a poster; you pay \$25 for that bother and \$10 more for postage and handling (Total: \$35). For way serious investors, we've got more options in the archives. Call, stop or write for details.

FRANKLIN FURNACE

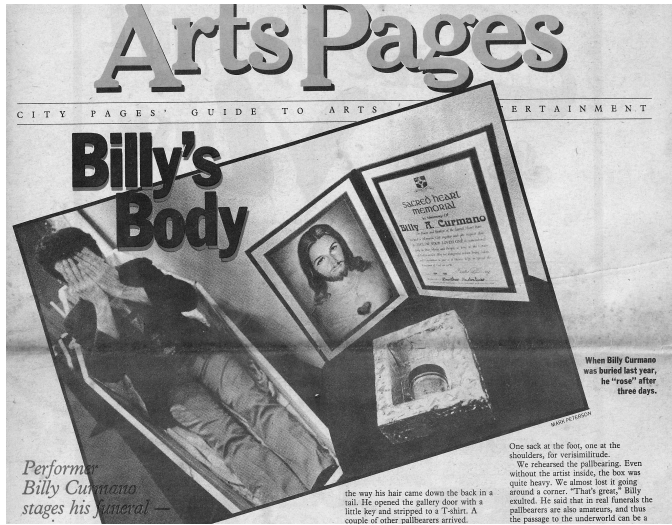
Billy was honored to join performance art legends Jessica Blinkhorn, Rosamond King, Verónica Peña, and Nicolás Dumit Estévez Raful Espejo Ovalles as the 2022-23 Franklin Furnace Fund for Performance Art selection panel. The five former recipients reviewed 328 applications and chose thirteen winners to share the \$60,000 prize and a coveted Franklin Furnace imprimatur. See the recipients:

<https://franklinfurnace.org/grants-and-funding/recipients/>

HOW HE DO THAT I DO NOT KNOW

Art lives on long after the moment fades - if it still stirs a memory. A 2022 Internet post from David Florian Heinz carried us way back to 1984 and Billy at Film in the Cities:

“i was a pallbearer, st paul funeral. we carried the coffin around the university- raymond intersection, mourners following while a new orleans jazz band played a dirge. then back to the catafalque. the reverend said a few words, then placed a mike up to an airhole where billy recited from poe's *Premature Burial* from the coffin> then a moment of silence, at end of which billy appeared at back of theatre playing his zither and reciting poetry> how he do that i do not know.”



Dateline: Dec. 5, 1984 - Minneapolis/St. Paul – *City Pages* *Arts Pages* carried Billy's *Premature Burial* on the front page. The headline screamed “**Billy's Body**” with a Mark Peterson photo of Billy in an installation that spilled off the stage and surrounded the audience. “Performer Billy Curmano stages his funeral again,” whispered the tag line. Artists from 24 nations had responded to death and Billy's 3-days buried alive with objects for the international postal art exhibition, *In Sympathy*. His Mount Airy Granite Tombstone, coffin, banners and other gravesite relics completed the theme in St. Paul.

His live art documented performance in performance. The Gate City Jass and Philharmonic Society joined with other “mourners” to re-create the *Performance for the Dead* jazz funeral. Pallbearers led the cortège to the streets and back. The coffin was returned and a frantic reading of Edgar Allan Poe's *The Premature Burial* emanated from the box.

Billy baffled the audience with a magical and carefully orchestrated illusion. The Heinz poetic post captured the spirit and trickery of the performance. On the other hand, a lovely front-page review deteriorated into an investigative report. The reviewer, Philip Weiss, was privy to backroom secrets as a volunteer. He ripped off the curtain, spilled the beans and all that mystery was lost to the front page.

ON BAFFLING

Another note on baffling the audience arrived via Baton Rouge and a survey response about the adventure bus tour with a *Performance for Cows* from Kathy Scales:

“Interesting juxtaposition of people, each of whom seemed to believe ‘They knew what it was all about’...and each of whom also had a different opinion about what it was all about.

COLLECTIVE ART & DOCUMENTA 15

Every five years the entire city of Kassel, Germany transforms into the prestigious international art exposition *Documenta* for about 100-days. Billy performed at the Kunstverein Kassel (Kassel Art Association) in 2012 parallel to *Documenta 13* for the European release of *Futurism's Bastard Son*, the definitive book about his work. (See: Vol. 36)

In 2022, *Documenta 15* flipped the Global North cultural model on its head with curatorial decisions by - a collective - for the very first time and from the - Global South - for only the second time - in its storied history. (Global South: Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Pacific Islands and developing countries in Asia and the Middle East)

The Global North norm often places superstars at the pinnacle of a pyramid supported by everyday cultural workers in a competition that pits artist against artist. It's a model derived in part from the culture wars: US vs. USSR or capitalist vs. communist or individual freedom vs. collective action and ultimately competition vs. cooperation. Let's be clear, we don't endorse either or any system.

In 1947, the Soviet Information Bureau (SIB) began hosting conferences to promote communism and provide funding for social realist culture. Some famous attendees included Pablo Picasso, Albert Einstein and Arthur Miller. The US countered with a 1950 Congress for Cultural Freedom (CCF) cultivating the benefits of capitalism, individual creative freedom and culture. It drew Tennessee Williams, Bertrand Russell and 100's of notable intellectuals to West Berlin. Most folks were unaware; the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) secretly funded the Congress for Cultural Freedom. Spooks kind of infiltrated culture earlier when Nelson Rockefeller appointed a future spy, Tom Braden, as the secretary of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in 1948. The New York Times didn't expose CIA and CCF ties until 1967. (See also: Vol. 37 Cloak & dagger).

The Soviet communist model implies collectivism and cooperation, but doesn't really deliver. The US capitalist model is a competitive rat race to an unsustainable top. The riches at the top flow from the exploitation of the masses under both systems. “If one man has a dollar he didn't work for, some other man worked for a dollar he didn't get.” - Big Bill Haywood - Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). Indigenous and tribal societies have historically relied on cooperation and collectivism - being in common - for the betterment of all as a matter of survival because all things are connected; nothing stands by itself alone.

In North America, the Dakota say, “Mitákuye Oyás'íŋ” or “we are all related” and the Cherokee's “gadugi” means, “working together”. The South American Quechua use “minga” for “collective work” and the African Bantu proclaim “ubuntu” “I am because you are” and so on.

That survival instinct is evident in nature as well. Prey animals gather in herds or flocks protecting one another. Even their predator counterparts often work in packs or pairs. Survival of the fittest morphs to survival of the most cooperative. Dogs co-operate with humans and are a far more successful species than their wolf ancestors.



Booth House as I Remember It - circa 1970's – Billy X

Being in common drove the creative explosion and alternative culture that was the 60's. Billy's *Booth House* collective was allied with neighboring communes and co-ops. It was listed with the underground switchboard as a crash pad for travelers and was host to weekly music sessions and community meals. It was a nexus for organizing communal studios, exhibitions and art fairs with the Wisconsin Art Guild (WAG) labor union and anti-war actions with Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). So much so, it rated phone taps and visits from the Federal Bureau Of Investigation (FBI) and local police. A network developed between collectives making travel and lodging relatively cheap. In NYC, Billy joined the Foundation for the Community of Artists (FCA) and helped develop an affiliation with WAG. He authored cartoons and wrote articles as a Midwest correspondent for the *Art Workers News*, FCA's national paper. Living and being in common cut everyone's expenses and freed time for creativity and to build the alternative culture.

The collective, *Ruangrupa*, (Roughly space/form) was invited to direct and curate *Documenta 15*. They invited other simpatico collectives to co-create with them. *Ruangrupa*'s collectivist history includes the communal *Ruruhouse* for *nongkrong* (Roughly the sweet pursuit of hanging out) in Jakarta, Indonesia. That's as decidedly anti-busy as Billy's metaphor for human over-activity and climate disruption, the *24-hour Rolling Nap*. – "Sometimes solutions are not about doing more – but doing less...is more." (See: Vol. 38 or *RollingNap.com*). *Ruangrupa* also teaches a return to tradition and collectivism in their art school *Gudskul*.

Documenta 15 was plagued with controversy, but what do you expect when survival tactics of the underserved threaten the status quo and the conventions of the Global North. There was

a large, 20-year-old mural from the collective, Taring Padi, that was seen as anti-Semitic. But let's not put the baby out with the bath water.

The Taring Padi manifesto proclaimed social justice as art's defining goal and put cooperation above competition. The member artists evolved from the Indonesian peoples' street revolt and struggle that ousted the 30-year reign of authoritarian General Suharto. The dated mural was just a revolutionary remnant. It was removed with apologies. The show's detractors were still upset by a Palestinian and other collectives that were in sympathy with the international Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. BDS was inspired by sanctions against South Africa that helped crush Apartheid. Its organizers point out Israel's occupation and colonization suppresses Palestinian rights and they draw a distinction between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism. The ACLU, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch are all in agreement and warn of the dangers in conflating BDS with anti-Semitism.

Art often breaks ground, ruffles feathers and is controversial. Billy remind us, **"When no art offends; perhaps there is no art."** Or, don't let your karma run over your dogma. As the world moves wobbly forward it's wise to build community, collectivism and being in common. When things go really bad it may be more important whom you are with than where you are. Billy likes to claim geese raised him to respect being in common. The flocks collective wing flapping creates uplift and about a 71% increase in flying range over solo flight. When the lead goose tires, it drops back into formation and another takes the lead. Honking from behind pushes the front's pace forward. If one should fall, two follow and stay with it until it revives or dies. They catch up or join another flock. Let's flock together.

Documenta15 research credit: Panthea Lee, "What does Collectivist Art Look Like", *In These Times*, Jan. Feb, 2023

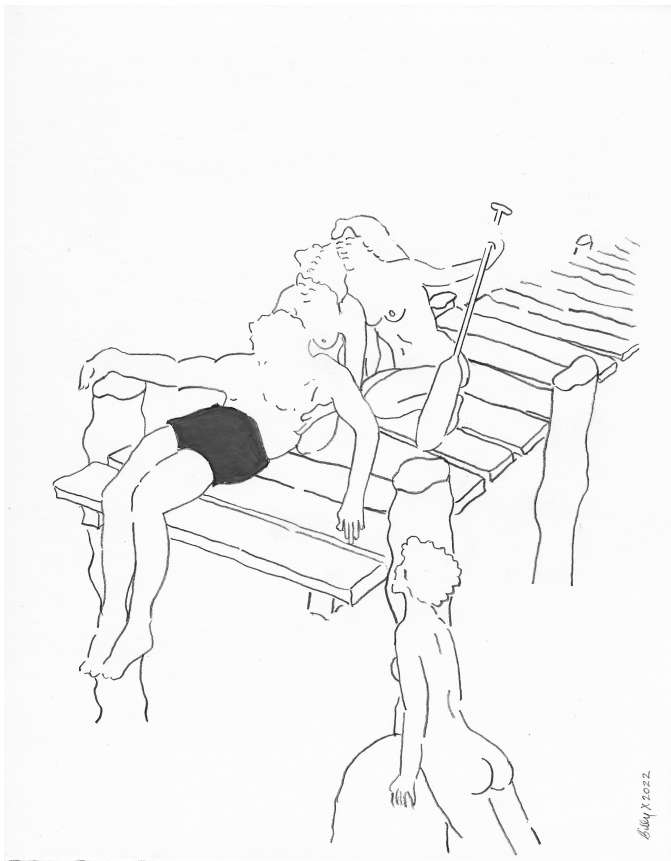
THE EXPERIMENTAL SOUND LAB

Even during the pandemic, sessions continued first outdoors and then in the experimental sound lab at Art Works USA. The latest incarnation of the New X Art Ensemble features the power trio *TriOX* or sometimes *Trio X*, Billy (vocals & instruments) Marvin Lightspeed (drums) and Dan Novack (bass) reunited as bottom end and then some. Founding member, Steve Smith, is back on sax. Jeff Strand returns on guitar after a multi-year hiatus and Ed Lagace fills things out on bass clarinet and flutes.

POETRY & PLANTINGS

Billy's climate change rap, *Think On*, was included in Volume 19 of the anthology *Beautiful Poetry* (2022) from the Silent Spark Press. He followed up with a *Tree Planting Guide* for the *Earth Keepers Handbook* (Recipes and Remedies for Healing the Land and Ourselves). *EcoArtSpace*, a premiere environmental art organization, collected materials from its diverse international membership. Both books are available online: <https://silentsparkpress.com/> & <https://ecoartspace.org/>

INDIGENOUS WISDOM – The 3 sisters: Plant Corn, Bean and Squash crops next to each other. Beans climb corn and provide nitrogen to the soil and squash spreads on the ground to block weeds.



Long Swim Pieta - Billy X, 8"x 10", watermedia/pencil, 2022

EXHIBITIONS AND SUCH

Billy's little fantasy, *Long Swim Pieta*, spent the summer in the 63rd Midwestern Invitational Exhibition of Fine Art at The Rourke Art Gallery & Museum (Fargo/Moorehead).

His long, skinny *Artist as Sculpture – Artist as Political Prisoner* (inkjet, polymer medium and paper, 52"x5", 2021) hung in the River Arts Alliance (RAA) Member Exhibit & Showcase at the Blue Heron in Winona, MN. It's Kind of a change up and comment on the seemingly ever-changing world of video. A pseudo filmstrip replaced the electronic media with serialized images from famed photographers Margarita Baumann & Kathy Greden. It document his *Political Prisoner* escapades at Art in Odd Places (AiOP) in New York City; the Chicago Hilton Hotel; downtowns in Rochester & Winona, MN; the Mississippi River Pool #6 and at the Great Dakota Gathering (See: Vol. 47).

The RAA exhibit expanded On Line with a short 7-second *Political Prisoner Interview* (2019) staged as an *Evening News New York* spot with news anchor Suzanne Fettuccine (played by Furusho von Puttkamer) for AiOP. A longer video, *Dead Suite* (5' 39", 2019) was culled from ancient *Performance for the Dead* files. It first premiered in performance at the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, NYC.

(See: riverartsalliance.org/member-exhibit)

The *We Are Water* exhibition from the Minnesota Humanities Commission featured Billy and a host of water keepers at the Winona History Center. The exhibit traveled to other sites around Minnesota.

VIDEO DEO

There are links at www.billyx.net that connect to other sites including Billy's two YouTube channels. The *Newest Videos*

from Billy on You Tube is just that. It includes *Swimming the Mississippi in Five* for a very quick look at that important multiyear project. *Dead Suite* and the *Political Prisoner Interview* listed in this issue under *Exhibitions and Such* are both there. Be sure to watch *Rolling Nap* another fan favorite. The Billy X. You Tube Archive has 9 more. Those videos are much older, but several are all time favorites *Earth Speaks* and the *Tiger Cage Video Short* are both must-sees. Go on - you know you want to.

While you're there, *Futurism's Bastard Son* published by Mark Pezinger Verlag, Vienna is still the most comprehensive Billy book to date. It's available from the store at billyx.net for \$35 plus shipping or from discriminating retailers everywhere.

DON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP

Life is fragile. Technology allows us to evolve much quicker than other species – when they can't keep up - we lose our relatives forevermore. We lose our kin. In past centuries, five mass extinctions wiped out whole species. Now, over eight billion of us are driving climate change, pollution, habitat loss and so on...and on... to the brink of a sixth great mass extinction.

Biological carbon sequestration occurs naturally. Trees and other plants sequester carbon and produce oxygen through photosynthesis. The biosphere – its flora and fauna – are balanced, but we - and especially the greedy among us - just get in the way.

Be sad, but don't despair. Right action brings a glimmer of hope. First, Do No Harm (*Primum non nocere*); Upend greed and reestablish the natural world. As a pro-tree-planter, Billy is step poppa to thousands of trees. His numbers are respectable, but whoa... The *Arbor Day Journal* reports the planting and distribution of nearly 500 million trees over 150 years. But that ain't nothin'. For the 150th Anniversary, they've upped the ante shooting for another 500 million trees in just the next five years. They aren't alone. A Nature Conservancy coalition aims to reforest one million acres in Minnesota by 2045 drawing down about 1.6 million metric tons of CO₂e annually. Plant trees, plant gardens, plant prairies, plant wildflowers, plant native species. Just plant.

There's lots more progress with regenerative agriculture and grazing practices that build soil health and sequester carbon; bioremediation with microbes breaks down pollutants; waste reduction; plant rich diets; family planning; public transit; recycling; up-cycling; composting etc the list goes on. Fifty years ago, one of the world's rarest songbirds, Kirtland's warbler, was near extinction. It was down to only 167 known pairs due to habitat loss. Widespread re-planting efforts have turned that extinction around. Now, a good 2,300 warblers are warbling in the Great Lakes region.

THE RIGHTS OF NATURE

Nature in all its forms has a right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate the same as us. Those rights are being codified into law. We reported *Rivers Gain Personhood* in 2017 (Vol. #42). A Maori tribe, the Whanganui iwi, in New Zealand fought a 140-year legal battle to name the Te Awa Tupua River an ancestor. It was the first river granted the same legal rights as a human along with a guardian to act on its behalf. Other rivers followed suit, the Ganges (India), the Magpie (Canada) and the Klamath (California). The biophilia continued with legal rights for nature granted in Bolivia, Columbia and the

2008 Ecuadoran Constitution. The White Earth Band of Ojibwe filed a suit against the MN Department of Natural Resources on behalf of manoomin (wild rice). It makes sense to recognize ecosystems as injured parties and protect nature from exploitation and corporate greed.

FREE MARKETS

Free Markets promise competition to produce the best goods and services, but a Deadly Sin steps in to spin the competition from best product to best profit. Greed exploits nature in all its forms. Workers and customers are hurt. The top cuts the bottom and recklessly slashes costs to dominate and monopolize markets. Indentured Democrats and Republicans can't seem to find the will to reign in Lobbyists, Wall Street, CEO's and their ilk. Captive consumers are left without safety protections and ultimately inferior goods and services.

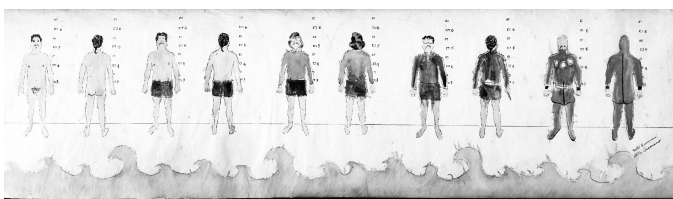
CAN CLEAN UPS CLEAN UP

A solar spill is just a sunny day, but oil spills haunt us. Remember the *Exxon Valdez*? Or how about the *Deepwater Horizon*? The offshore oilrig, *Horizon*, exploded killing 11. The devastation continued as it spewed millions of gallons of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico - for 87 days. But that's not even the end of it. The skimmers normally used to soak up oil couldn't handle the colossal spill. Robots were sent in to cover the wellhead while C-130's carpet-bombed the area with about 1.8 million gallons of dispersants. Oil sludge is bad enough, but combined with dispersants it created an aerosolized mist. The toxic vapor has been blamed for chemically induced, untreatable illnesses and deaths that have plagued many of the gulf's innocent residents and clean-up workers. A safety manual for one dispersant, Corexit 9527, has a list of warnings that includes..."may cause injury to red blood cells (hemolysis), kidney or the liver". Déjà vu - all over again and reminiscent of once healthy soldiers returning from war with debilitating toxic effects from Agent Orange or Burn Pits. A 2022 Merry Christmas from TC Energy's Keystone Pipeline as it spilled 14,000 barrels of crude oil into a Kansas creek. The company only recovered 2,600 barrels of oil diluted with water. That's the largest onshore spill since the 2013 Tesoro Corp.'s 20,600 barrels in North Dakota. A seemingly endless stream of tanker cars rolling and derailing is just another form of pipeline. It's never if a pipeline will fail - it's when.

Research credit: Linda Marsa, "The Poisoned Gulf", *Playboy*, July/August, 2015 & *The Week*, December 23, 2022

GATEKEEPERS - FREEDOM OF/FROM RELIGION

All-knowing fundamentalists don't care about freedom of religion... not as a choice anyway. Of course, it's because they know you'll make the wrong choice. The only right choice is their choice. Gatekeepers protect us from bad religion, bad art, bad music and... They know what's best.



Still Swimmn', Billy X, 8" x 30", watermedia, circa: 1998

Billy says, "Don't worry. The voices in my head have agreed to follow Robert's Rules of Order".

The Fandango is published sporadically by Art Works USA. Bill Gaglione created the masthead. **Warning and disclaimer:** Joining the *Billy Curmano Fan Club* leaves an indelible mark. You can't always see it, but believe you me, it's there, buddy. (See: *The Fandango*, Vol. 17 1-2, 1998, for removal)

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 projects. Join the discriminating crowd and become a member of Billy's own Fan Club. Send the form, annual dues and any and all correspondence 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

\$5 CHEAPO: Wallet size membership card - some mailings.
\$25 IRREGULAR: As above, plus well wishes from us.
\$50 REGULAR: As above, plus a handsome wall certificate.
\$100 DELUXE: As above, plus Great Moments Performance Art No-Stick stamp series and appropriate mailings.
\$300 DELUXE PLUS: As above, plus original print.
\$1000 SUPER DELUXE: As above, plus 2-day vacation at Scenic Art Works USA (travel from Winona, MN included).
\$1500 SAINT: As above, plus vacation extended by a day.
\$5000 BUDDY: As above, plus 1 of Billy's special pizzas and Billy will pal around with you for a little while.
Institutional rate: Indicate Same & add 20% surcharge for 1 newsletter to circulate and 1 to archive. Make checks payable **Art Works USA**. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Premium substitutions are subject to our whims.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name _____

—

Address _____

—

City _____

—

State _____ Zip _____

—

Phone _____

—

Signature _____

—

Membership _____

Type _____ \$ _____ date _____

Add an E-mail if you like:

We haven't reached our latest fund raising goal. If you'd rather pay annual dues monthly, that would really be swell.