



Vol. 36 – 2012-13

[HTTP://WWW.BILLYX.NET](http://www.billyx.net)

NEW ON LINE STORE - CLICK ON STORE

There's finally a store at billyx.net where you can purchase original art and documentation of his work including the brand new book: www.billyx.net

The Year of Billy

With the 2011 release of *The Search* DVD and 2012 release of his book, *Futurism's Bastard Son*, we hereby proclaim *The Year of Billy*. Sure, it's more than 365 days, but then again, a year isn't 365 days or we wouldn't need a leap year.

Futurism's Bastard Son or The Billy Book

Futurism's Bastard Son (n... or adj. 2. False; spurious) was published by Mark Pezinger Verlag – Vienna and released at Kunstverein Kassel, Kassel, Germany in August parallel to the international art exposition *Documenta 13*. The US release followed at the Museum Of Modern Art, P.S. 1 in September during the *New York Art Book Fair*.

The Billy Book documents several decades of major and minor works from "traditional" objects to live art. For the uninitiated, Billy has been buried alive, swam the length of the Mississippi River and often performs for cows and other under-served audiences.

Art historians often place the birth of performance or live art with the Italian Futurists. Genetically speaking, Italian American Billy has claimed those genes as

Futurism's Bastard Son, a false son perhaps, but none-the-less a son. (Continued Inside, See: Billy Book)

Artist of the Year 2012

As previously reported (*Fan Extra* Vol. 35) In a highly unorthodox move, Billy named himself 2012 *Artist of the Year* not just here and there, but in the whole worldwide world (www). He's been paying himself the \$100,000.00 cash component in monthly installments. His first formal proclamation was for the universal care and feeding of all art workers.

National Artists Dinner Day (NADD)

Billy's first proclamation ordering a monthly *National Artists Dinner Day* was read during the College Art Association (CAA) annual conference in Los Angeles.

Artist of the Year Ejected from Conference

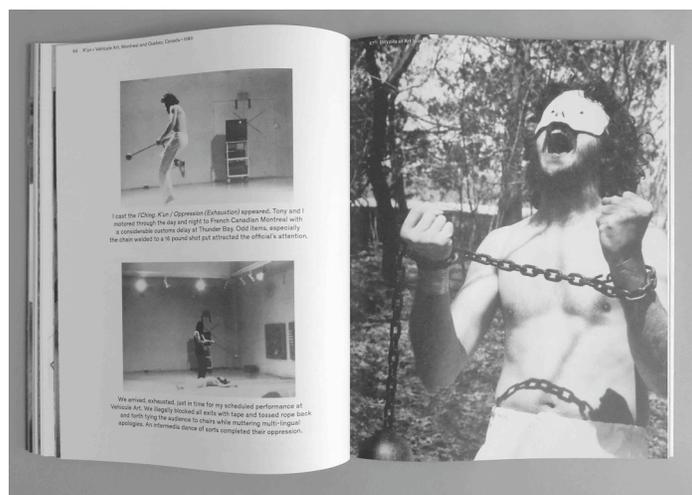
A security team at the Los Angeles Convention Center ejected self-appointed 2012 *Artist of the Year* Billy X. Curmano from the College Art Association (CAA) 100th Annual Conference Book and Trade Fair, while he attempted to deliver his first official proclamation establishing National Artists Dinner Day (NADD). (Continued Inside See: NADD)

People of the State of California vs. just Billy X.

The pedestrian Billy X. did shamelessly, illegally, but quite safely cross a street in Long Beach as Walk morphed to Don't Walk. He was issued a \$194. - Citation bringing the wrath of the entire state of CA down upon him. The circumstances seemed so absurd he defended himself with a *Trial by Declaration*. The Superior Court, County of Los Angeles found him **NOT GUILTY**.

BillyIn – InClimate – So Say Billy:

"Hang On for your life! We are all astronauts clinging to a biosphere traveling around the sun at 67,062-mph. Individual actions combine to create often-collective parasitic practices in need of fundamental change. A key factor for human survival depends on cooperation, individual actions and unselfish self-sufficiency." Billy was selected for the two-year *InClimate* project conceived by Regina Cornwell under the auspices of Franklin Furnace, NY. It teams climate change



specialists with 11 artists/studios to find solutions and antidotes to the catastrophic problems we face from a warming globe. He met briefly with Bill McKibben of *Do the Math!* Fame and members of *350.org* while in Berkeley, CA. Expect a heady mix of satire and common sense interpretations of serious facts from Billy. He is still seeking more collaborators.



Climate Change Scoffers with special interests have created controversy where there is no controversy. Some school districts even treat Climate Change with the same skeptical handling as evolution. Way way back (See: Vol. 30) we declared our position, human induced or not, Climate Change is inevitable. Our best practices may buy a little time to prepare for a changing world. Our worst practices will lead to a hostile environment.

Bickering has left international summits with little useful consensus on solutions. The only thing agreed upon is a mere 2° Celsius rise in temperature would be catastrophic. Scientists estimate burning only 565 gigatons of fossil fuels will take us over that mark, but fossil fuel corporations currently have 2,795 gigatons in reserve. Five times more than is safe to burn and

they're looking for more. Yikes! It's already up one full degree. Not much wiggle room.

Burning fossil fuel with CO2 emissions changes the very make-up of our atmosphere much as second hand smoke changes the air we breathe. Big Tobacco fostered disease for profit and was held accountable. Let's go after Big Oil, Gas & Coal next. They have become outlaws that lie and disregard the immutable Laws of Physics to protect astronomical profits, subsidies and to obstruct the progress of renewable energy. Is there a greater criminal act than destroying the planet?

Don't be fooled again. Renewable energy can and will totally replace those old boys. This summer U.S. wind turbine capacity hit 50 gigawatts the equivalent of 11 nuclear or 44 coal-fired power plants and recent studies confirm renewables generate more jobs per unit of energy delivered than fossil fuels.

If we are junkies dependent on fossil fuels, Big Oil, Gas & Coal are the greedy corporate pushers that hooked us. They will do whatever it takes to control markets, destroy competition and keep us dependent. Kick it. Take action. Join with local environmental groups and be part of the solution. The Sierra Club has worked to shutter dirty coal-fired plants no longer able to meet clean air standards (114 are being taken off-line). The 350-Movement began a divestment campaign inspired by the one that helped topple Apartheid in South Africa. It calls on schools, churches and government pension funds to sell off fossil fuel stocks. Green peace is still active. Declare War on the Fossil Fuel Industry.

Billy Book (Continued from front cover)

The Performance Art Network, Vienna hosted Billy's *Water Trilogy* (See: Vol. 35). Afterwards, publisher Thomas Geiger suggested a book could introduce his work to a much wider audience and a Winona-Vienna 9-month, transatlantic collaboration became both word... and image.

His *Search DVD* provided 3 major works, the 3-day live burial, 2,367.4-mile Mississippi River swim and 40-day Death Valley Desert Fast, as pillars the book was built around, but it includes so much more from early works to the present.

Kunstverein Kassel hosted Mark Pezinger publications and featured the release of *Futurism's Bastard Son* with Billy's live intermedia performance, *The Water Trilogy*. Two nights later artist publisher Thomas Geiger, Graphic designer Astrid Seme, artist

comptroller Margarita Baumann and the bastard himself formed a panel to discuss the Billy Book and aspects of its publication. **(See Insert to Order)**

NADD (Continued from front cover)

The CAA Annual Conference was chosen as the venue for this bold NADD Proclamation because of its prominence as the world's largest forum for the visual arts and Mr. Curmano's long standing with the organization. In the traditions of Art, Dada, Fluxus and the Italian Futurists, Mr. Curmano attempted to present the document during an *Unauthorized Reception* at the Barnseville Easel Booth with the assistance of the Reverend Doctor Kenneth Patrick Payne. Institutional bureaucracy interrupted (or became part of) this Live Art attempt. After brief negotiations, it was agreed to announce the continuation of Curmano's performance at the Lobby Court Bar in exchange for a quiet and peaceful resolution. The artists were willingly escorted from the hall without further incident and reestablished the performance with a more subdued tone in the new location.

After a brief introduction, the proclamation was read, witnessed and signed with assurances it's content would be widely dispersed.

Mr. Curmano has been recognized for these kinds of activities in the past. In fact, the College Art Association collected documentation from his unauthorized work, *The Homeless Hilton; NY, NY*, performed at the CAA 1990 Annual Conference in New York City for their official archive. He has also volunteered his writing to the *CAA Art Journal* and his expertise as a panelist for the organization. Reached for comment a slightly miffed Curmano said, "See if I ever give these guys another freebie unauthorized performance."

???Traditional??? Billy Objects Shipped Out

Seven *Swimmin' the River* images were dusted off, recreated and shipped out for *Works on Water* at the Marin Community Foundation, Novato, CA. (10/4/12-2/4/13). Billy followed and performed the *River Rap* at the reception. The exhibition includes 30 environmental artists and was curated by EcoArt Cofounder Patricia Watts. Celebrity gossip: Chelsea Clinton's visit added a security reshuffle. And in MN: **1.** *Expanding the Songbook* (Mixed media) was included in the 53rd *Midwestern Invitational* at The Rourke Museum, Moorhead. **2.** *Impervious Flag*

(Copper, steel and aluminum, 1970) and **3.** *Upon My Return* aka *I Must Not Kill* (Mixed media) were in the *World-in-Arms* exhibition curated by artist Gita Ghei at the Anderson Center, Red Wing. **4.** *The Sun* (Acrylics, 6' X 6') shone at the Winona Arts Center annual members exhibition. **5.** *Universal Speed Master* (Mixed media sculpture, for pounding, 1972 - See: Billy Book pg. 87) was exhibited in the *SE MN Artists Exhibition* at Winona State University. **6.** *Cascade Meadow Inaugural Confluence* (Glass etched, mixed media sculpture) was commissioned and installed at The Cascade Meadows Wetlands and Environmental Science Center in Rochester, MN. It holds ceremonial Lake Itasca, Cascade, Bear Creek and Zumbro River waters joined in performance via his Ocean Harp.



National Artists Dinner Day (NADD)

Take an Artist Out to Dinner Day

Or in exception

Bring Them Home to a Lavish Feast Day

PROCLAMATION:

Whereas: I, Billy X Curmano, doth hereby and with out prejudice proclaim myself Artist of the year for 2012

And

Whereas: I, Billy X Curmano, have accepted the aforesaid mantle "2012 Artist of the Year" and thereby assuming all the solemn duties, honors and responsibilities that are encumbered in said title.

Whereas: The aforesaid mantle carries the solemn and austere responsibility of occasional proclamations, diatribes and pronouncements concerning the arts and the state of said arts therein.

Whereas: American culture beatifies, and thus esteems said art with its storage, valuation, and display in what are held to be deemed the "New Cathedrals" while the artist as creator of said art rarely earns more than a modest living from their afore mentioned art.

Whereas: The words "Starving" and "Artist" are unfortunately, oft times joined and co-opted in so called "Starving Artist Shows" for execution of the sale of mass produced consumer items passed off to an unknowing and unsuspecting public as fine art.

Whereas: The 2012 Artist of the year here-to-for proclaims the first Wednesday of each month be deemed " Take an artist out to dinner day" or in exception "bring them home to a lavish feast day".

This proclamation is there by witnessed and a judged viable and in effect from this day and to the expiration of my term as 2012 artist of the year and beyond and in point of fact into perpetuity.

On this date, February 24, 2012, at this hour 17:47 Pacific Standard Time, I, Billy X. Curmano, 2012 Artist of the Year, do hereby with intent affix sign, validate and witness this proclamation.

Addendum: For the purposes of this document, the term artist shall be understood to refer to all art workers in the visual, literary and performing arts. National Artists Dinner Day or NADD is meant to include all artists, art workers and arty types in the visual, literary and performing arts.



NAAD Proclamation, College Art Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles Convention Center, 2012



Homeless Hilton, NY, NY, College Art Association Annual Conference, NYC Hilton Hotel, 1990

L to R: Billy, Two Security Officers, Mary Coughlan

National Artists Dinner Day the First

The first NADD event evolved as a Potluck thanks to the Blue Heron Gallery in Winona, MN. Get out there and organize your own.

Documenta 13

As usual, Billy could not resist a few unauthorized performances during Documenta 13. Besides some odd looks, during one brief and shaky statuesque

moment two young women tried imitating his awkward stance.

XART Audio and Scorched Ear

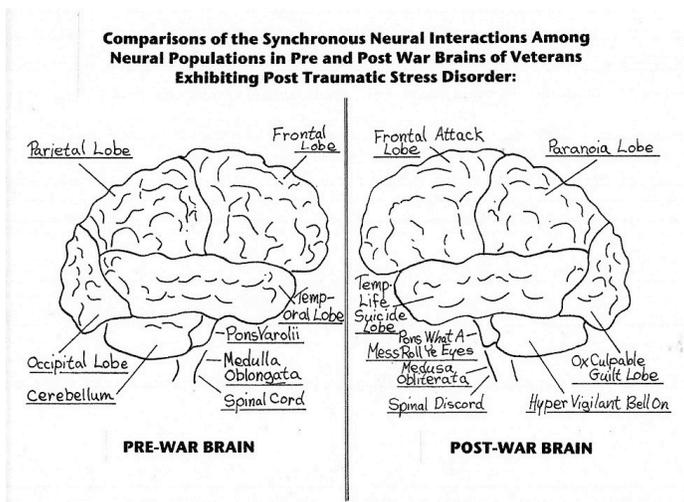
1. Check out ScorchedEar.com - They made an honest studio musician of Billy in a Sci-Fi themed release recorded at the McPhail Center for Music, Minneapolis and invaded the Witoka Contemporary for a collaborative recording soon to be released as *Infinite Xings*. **2.** Kenneth Patrick Payne recorded some spoken words, *On Not Going Gently Into This Good Night*, with Billy and the boys. More on that as it develops. **3.** Legal and monetary issues have slowed the release of *Where the River Meets the Sea* with Billy, Poppa Neutrino and New X. The traditional standards add about \$100 per song to production and replication costs for this free jazz opus. A little help? Maybe get your name on a disc.

It's a Miracle Dept: Lady of Help

An unsolicited offer from American Express arrived addressed simply *Lady of Help*. It's obviously an Omen from God via American Express to add the *Lady of Help* moniker to the *Leaning Grotto of Witoka*.

Inside Performance Art or It Ain't Necessarily So

It's not all good. Billy approached Rochester, MN Community Education about hosting a series of videos from major players he's worked or hung with while on the road, 4 evenings with Billy, Rachel Rosenthal, Poppa Neutrino and Tehching Hsieh. There weren't enough butts to fill the seats for *Inside Performance Art*. Too bad, it's your loss Rochester.

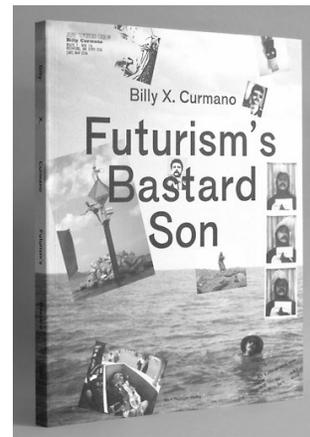


Apocalyptic Fashion & Etiquette Guide

Y2K, Mayan Calendar or just yet another apocalypse and end of the world, isn't it time to get your copy of the guide with handy tips on what to wear and how to act to meet your maker. After all, we all have to go sometime. *Mortem Vitae Sequens*. \$10 from Art Works USA.

Artist of the Year Sale

Although Billy would like to retain the honor into perpetuity, he's planning to place the prestigious *Artist of the Year* title up for grabs to the highest bidder. It'll probably be difficult for him to let go, so no guarantees on 2013, but watch right here or at billyx.net and eBay.



Futurism's Bastard Son How to Order:

Bring out the white gloves it's already a rare book. Bindery problems followed by customs and/or shipping mishaps decreased the numbers of the first edition. Don't be sorry you waited to get yours. **It's easily an \$800 value... only \$30... But wait...** Munken Lynx paper and stitched thread binding emphasizes the quality over quantity approach. It's an artist's life as art in 128 letter size pages, 164 black and white images and French Flap Covers designed by Astrid Seme. The text is in English from multiple sources including Billy's own words. Pages weigh in at: 115 grams and the cover at 300... **Get yours:** The Billy Book: \$30. (U.S.) The Search DVD: \$25. **But Wait:** The Billy Book and The Search DVD: \$50. The Collector's Edition (50 copies) includes The Billy Book, a signed and numbered, hand stamped folder with an artist altered Mississippi River Swim Map. Collectors Edition: \$150 **But Wait:** Add DVD: \$170.

All U.S. Orders add Sales Tax 6.875% and S/H \$8.50
Mail Art Works USA or: <http://www.billyx.net>
Europe & beyond check the publisher in Vienna:
<http://www.MarkPezinger.de>

Soul Fire 4 the Gulf or “That’s some hip shit.”

Billy was invited to join a healing ceremony inspired by New Orleans Medicine Person and legendary musician Dr. John whose latest album, *Locked Down*, has been referred to as “inspired voodoo-gumbo jazz funk” with a top rating in *Rolling Stone*.

Turtle Women Rising and the tribal communities of Isle de Jean Charles, Pointe aux Chien, the Dulac Bands of the Biloxi, Chitimacha, Choctaw and the Atakapa Ishak Tribe joined in unity to welcome the Grandmothers, Elders and Peoples of All Nations to support a Stand for the Earth in an encampment at Fontainebleau State Park near Mandeville, LA.

A ceremonial fire, drums and songs continued in a 3-day, 24-hour sacred prayer of healing for the land, the waters, critters and peoples of the Gulf culminating in a traditional second line to the Mississippi River in New Orleans.

Billy was named *Perimeter Walker* as he explored Bayou Cane, a grandmother tree and ancient mounds. He spoke with alligators, frogs and other creatures - drummed, danced, sang and performed water ceremonies with the ocean harp at both the encampment and the New Orleans River Front. He became a reluctant truck driver running gear from Mandeville into the narrow streets of New Orleans in a rented 17-footer. It all wound down in a final show with Soul Fire Folks at Snake and Jakes on Oak St. followed by a sleepless night and way early return flight. After one session, Dr. John asked Billy about his ocean harp and then said, “That’s some hip shit.”

Midnight Babylon, Billy’s Brain and Science

Billy’s *Midnight Babylon* premiered way back at the Cat Club in NYC. It poignantly reflects the space between dream and sleep states in a high end Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) soldier. It was re-created at the Burchfield Penney Art Center in Buffalo, NY in 2011 and came to life again for *World-in-Arms* at the Anderson Center, Red Wing. The current incarnation benefits from his voluntary brain scan, the synchronous neural interactions test, in one of only 20 Magneto Encephalography Units in the world believed to be capable of identifying functional neuromarkers for PTSD. By contrasting the mature Billy with his younger video-self, it demonstrates the tenacity of this condition and the consequences of sending youth off to WAR.

The Fandango is published sporadically by Art Works USA. You can write or call us about just-about any-old-thing. When sending money, don’t forget to indicate what the heck you want. Unsolicited manuscripts, photos etc. are not solicited, but if you want to send something, go for it. No returns without S.A.S.E. The masthead image was created by Bill Gaglione. **Warning and disclaimer:** Joining the *Billy Curmano Fan Club* leaves an indelible mark on your person. You can’t always see it, but believe you me, it’s there, buddy. See: *The Fandango*, Vol. 17 1-2, 1998, for removal information.

Your INVITATION To FUN & ADVENTURE The Billy X. Curmano Fan Club

If you enjoy contemporary artist Billy 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 to 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 be made at our whim.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Okay Kimberly! I just can’t wait, here’s my 2013 annual dues. I want to join Billy X. Curmano’s Fan Club.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Signature _____

Membership Type _____ \$ _____ date _____

Add e-mail to be included in e-mail up-dates and so on.