

EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA

Read all about it:

BILLY X. CURMANO NAMED 2012 ARTIST OF THE YEAR

In a highly unorthodox move, Minnesota artist Billy X. Curmano has named himself "2012 Artist of the Year" and not just in Minnesota but in the whole world wide world (www). The announcement was made in January, but because of the artist's busy schedule the award ceremony will be held much later in the year. Unlike similar "of the year" awards, this one avoids the long wait and jumpstarts 2012. The distinction of this prestigious award and honorary title is augmented with a \$100,000 cash component he plans to pay himself over numerous monthly installments.

Reached for comment in New York City, artist and Franklin Furnace founding director, Martha Wilson was quoted as saying, " Billy Curmano is a world-class artist whose work Franklin Furnace has presented and produced four times: On February 26, 1988 he performed "Performance Pod" in our performance space; on February 14, 1990 at the Hilton Hotel in mid-town Manhattan he performed "Homeless Hilton"; on July 23, 1997 Franklin Furnace screened "Swimming the Mississippi," documentation of his decade-long effort to swim the entire length of the Mississippi River; and on October 29, 1999 we netcast this videotape to a worldwide audience through a collaboration with Pseudo Programs, Inc. Franklin Furnace's artists are selected by peer review panels from among hundreds of proposals received each year from around the world, a testament to how important the artworld feels his work to be. I think it is only fitting that he be selected as "Artist of the Year."

Samples of some of these works can be experienced at the artists web address <http://www.billyx.net> The former Milwaukeean moved to an isolated farmhouse

in the Minnesota outback to develop what he hoped would be a singular style unaffected by the whims and trends of the art world. Circumstances have returned him to a slightly larger community in Witoka. When contacted at his rural studio for this announcement, Curmano was apparently unaware he was even being considered for the award. He simply stated, "I'm truly humbled by this totally unexpected honor. There are so many more deserving artists whole world wide (www)."



"Artist of the Year" Billy X. Curmano

Old file photo

FANDANGO EXCLUSIVE: Journal Entry
"Curmano Shetchbook" dated 1 January 2012

"I awoke elated as 'Artist of the Year', but as the tremendous responsibility became ever more clear I sunk once again into a depression – so much so – that I decided to put the coroner on speed dial.

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, Pres. Kimberly Haedtke, Vice Pres.

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

\$2 **CHEAPO:** Wallet size membership card- some mailings.

\$10 **REGULAR:** As above, plus a handsome wall certificate.

\$25 **DELUXE:** As above, plus Great Moments - Performance Art. Non-adhesive stamp series. All appropriate club mailings.

\$100 **DELUXE PLUS:** As above, plus original print.

\$500 **SUPER DELUXE:** As above, plus gift certificate; plus weekend vacation at Scenic Art Works USA (travel from Winona, MN included).

\$1000 **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.

New Category:

\$Cool Million 1 PER CENTER: As above, plus for all practical purposes, Billy will accept you as a distant relative.

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 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.

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.



"Artist of the Year" Billy X. Curmano Much older file photo

Just in case you want to send us a nice note along with your membership or renewal, this space intentionally left blank:

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