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### HOOTIN' HOT DOGS! NEW DVD RELEASE

Get your own copy of what those Fancy Dan museums, libraries and universities have in their Billy Archives. XART A/V and Jump Frog Productions are proud to announce the re-release of this re-mastered and highly affordable DVD with three way-big Billy works

### Billy X. Curmano Live Art: THE SEARCH

In the past, most of the DVD's have been released as handmade one-offs in very limited editions with a price tag to match. THE SEARCH includes the historic Swimming the Mississippi, Death Valley Desert Fast and 3-day live Burial along with bonus tracks. It is being replicated in larger quantities to make it widely available.

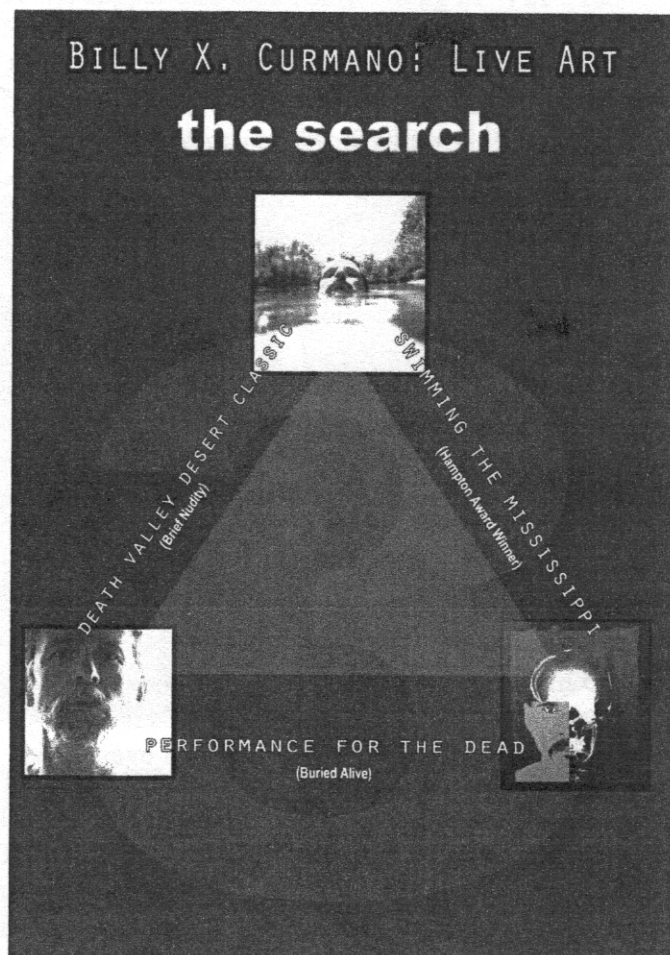
But don't worry collectors, fat cats and über rich, the first 100 copies will be hand signed and numbered by the artist for your collections. Order it here or ask for it at Amazon and other reputable retailers. Details and How to order (See: Live Art: THE SEARCH page 3).

### FINALLY ROYALTY REALIZED

Billy was crowned king of the First Swimming Man Festival in Burlington, VT. Collaborator, good friend and inspiration Poppa Neutrino was among the organizers. Billy's performance chops and 2,367.4-mile Mississippi River Swim made him an obvious choice. He asked what he'd have to do. Poppa said, "Just get here and be willing to perform and we'll take care of the rest."

He headed out with her majesty Margarita, who would later be crowned queen of the festival. The journey included a 5-hour Lake Michigan crossing on the SS Badger, a Canadian drive to Montreal, then south to Burlington and finally the festivities in, on and around Lake Champlain.

He helped finish-up the raft/stage just as the Coast Guard asked them to move on. They set sail for the planned performance site with makeshift paddles, but a storm forced them to land and lash off for the night. The raft was seaworthy, but its scale made it a little difficult to maneuver. It was large enough to accept the tall silk flying apparatus for aerialists from the Lady Circus House of Yes, along with instruments, equipment and a bevy of performers. It was guerilla theater at its finest - no permits - just a strategically anchored stage among all the yachts and beachcombers gathered for Independence Day



(for the spiritual in art)

Fireworks. John Pendergast motored in to back Billy on several free jazz numbers before the king jumped overboard to finish his signature "River Rap" with strokes and splashes. There was a radio appearance and video screenings to round out the trip.

## STILL WORKING FOR PEACE - PART 1

从艺术到谋杀的祭献美学

THE SACRIFICIAL AESTHETIC: BLOOD RITUALS FROM ART TO MURDER

艺术家 Billy X. Curmano

明尼苏达艺术家 Billy Curmano 的行为艺术 "血浴 Bloodbath" 被西方媒体暴力行为的关注。艺术家流着自己的鲜血作为全人类的祭祀。

Bloodbath 由 Billy 表演被祭献的人，他所强调的，是表演全部使用新鲜血液式表演通常被安排在颇具象征意义的2月14日西方情人节。Billy 身着白衣坐表演者将流洒鲜血作为祭品以减缓人间作为付出的痛苦与死亡。Billy 保血，但并不会严重伤害到自己。他身边的护士用针管从他手臂中抽出鲜血灌音贯穿其中。最后 Billy 用牙齿撕开药瓶，将鲜血洒向身旁的地球仪，落幕的在冲突的地区。

Stay with us now. It's a little tricky. Last issue (Vol. 33), we led with "Timeless or Time Will Tell". In 2009, *Euro Arts* magazine re-created Billy's 1984 anti-war work, "Bloodbath", with an art historical article by Dr. Dawn Perlmutter taken from an earlier issue of UCLA's *Journal of Anthropoetics*. There was a lengthy excerpt with blood curdling quotations like "The artist's own blood is shed in a human sacrifice intended to focus attention on global violence."

Déjà vu all over again as *Vision*, Beijing China's art and fashion magazine, re-created it once again in their April 2010 issue. They kept the doctor's title, "The Sacrificial Aesthetic: Blood Rituals from Art to Murder", eight images and the players names in English. The rest was All-Chinese. Since we don't understand it, ...let's just say it's all good.



## PART 2: MIDNIGHT BABYLON

"Midnight Babylon" has a colorful past. It premiered at the Cat Club in NYC in the early 70's and once split the bill with legendary performer Country Joe MacDonald. It was dusted off and re-created for Winona's first Fringe Festival and then again for the Burchfield Penney Art Center in Buffalo, NY. It was written and performed as a highly mutable solo piece that travels easily and fits most any venue and time frame - from 1 minute as a commercial for peace to a full hour performance. It was meant to stand-alone or be used between acts at concerts and other events. The babble in Babylon focuses on the nightmares and posttraumatic stress of a warrior. It has remained relevant as we continue to send people off to that abomination that is war and expect them to reintegrate back into our society - even though they've been forever changed.

## PART 3: OXY THE SMART BOMB

Billy comes by his anti-war stance honestly. He has been witness to war on two continents, carries a 6.5 mm steel ball in his calf, several other scars and was once asked to participate in the VA Medical Center Study of Brain Function and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. He's envious of the resiliency of cartoon characters and longs to be one.

His cartoon strip and sometime alter ego "Oxy" Mōrōn (The Smart Bomb) is still a feature of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War national newspaper with past episodes always available online at [www.vvaw.org](http://www.vvaw.org)



## THE WATER TRILOGY

Billy's "Water Trilogy" connects the abundance of water from his Mississippi River swim with its absence in the 40-day Death Valley Desert Fast and goes on to the changing states of the Arctic. As he developed it, bits and pieces appeared here and there, but it's finally a "formal" work available for touring. Appropriately, the Trilogy premiered and helped inaugurate the brand new Cascade Meadows Wetlands and Environmental Science Center in Rochester, MN along with other special events and the "Women & Water Rights Exhibition". The new environmentally friendly facility sports two different types of wind generators, solar collectors, lots of green amenities and educational programs.

Legend has it the project began with simple plans to restore the wetlands with nature trails and an



educational kiosk. It snowballed from there. A tip of the proverbial hat to the far sightedness of the Water Matters Coalition for bringing the arts, science and audience together in Rochester.

#### **"HISTORY OF DISAPPEARANCE:**

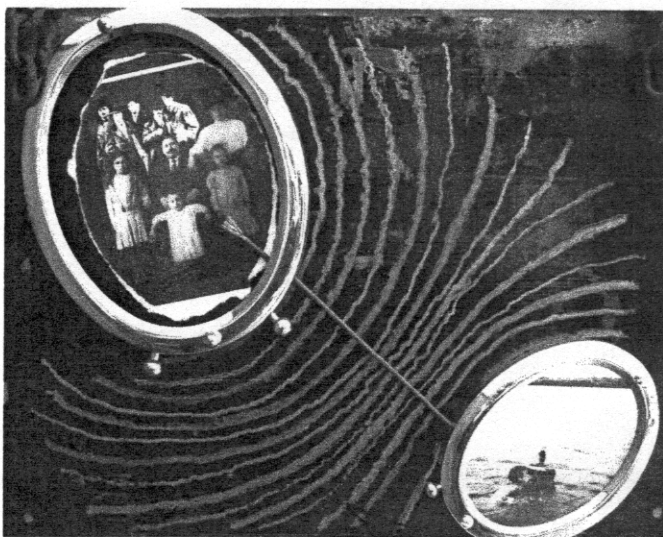
**Live art from New York**" the group exhibition with Billy's "Swimming the Mississippi" video is still touring internationally. Most recently, it was at Arhus Kunsbygning (the Center for Contemporary Art) in Copenhagen, Denmark. We sometimes lose track of these things and only find out by Googling Billy with the goo-goo googely eyes (Couldn't resist that). Franklin Furnace (NYC) organized the exhibition and - so far - we know it's been at museums in England, Italy and Venezuela.

**Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Botticelli etc. →**

#### **FUTURISM**

**→ Marinetti, Boccioni, Severini, Saint-Point, Casati, Cara, Russolo, ---> Curmano...**

Billy's mixed media work, "Futurism's Bastard Son", on recycled buffed and transformed steel, brass, copper and then some - hung in "The 51st Midwestern Invitational Exhibition" at the Rourke Art Gallery Museum, Moorhead, MN all summer. It included images of those troublesome futurists connecting DNA to his family line.



(Detail) "Futurism's Bastard Son"

#### **THE CAGE AFFECT**

Billy was fortunate to have spent some time with John Cage. He even has a piece the acknowledged master helped him with to prove it. Cage taught at Black Mountain College along with Josef Albers and other luminaries of that generation. Billy produced a new work for an exhibition at the Black

Mountain College Museum commemorating an important time in art history.

#### **Live Art: THE SEARCH**

<b>Performance for the Dead</b>	14' 00"	1983
(Buried Alive)		
<b>Swimming the Mississippi</b>	29' 00"	1987-1997
(Henry Hampton Award for Excellence in Film and Digital Media Winner)		
		2002
<b>Death Valley Desert Classic</b>	42' 22"	1999-2000
(Brief Nudity)		
Bonus Tracks		
<b>Earth Speaks</b>	01' 00"	2009
<b>First Take</b>	04' 11"	2008

Audio on menu: "Orange Alert" - Threat Level 3

#### **(For the SPIRITUAL in ART)**

Billy X. Curmano's search for that indefinable quality that separates a masterpiece from everyday art has led him through a series of life altering performance works or "Live Art". No Hollywood stunts, tricks or high-end equipment.

Billy X. Curmano:

Was buried alive for three days in a performance for the dead while seeking visions and hints of the other-side.

Swam 2,367.4 miles from the source of the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico as a performance and environmental statement.

Limited recording to only a singular moment from each day of a 40-day Death Valley Desert Fast, then released 40-unedited minutes.

The rough edges of "life as art" are exposed through rare documentation of these performances recorded under frequently harsh conditions. An eco-friendly wallet package design in collaboration with John O'Hara rounds out this deal of a lifetime.

**To order** send us \$25.00 (Taxes/shipping etc. included) with your request for it and mailing info. **Bigger wad types** send \$125 (same-same info) and you'll get a signed and numbered ltd. Ed. copy.

#### **BILLY'S - BIGGER - TINY CARD CO.**

We've expanded the line with a new "Fool Billy" April Fools' card and a tiny sympathy card at Billy's Tiny Card Co. "When you care enough not to make a big deal." Investors - make an offer - the shares are on the table.

**BILLY'S PERSONAL WEIGHT LOSS PLAN GUARANTEED!** Send \$49.95 to Art Works USA and turn the page or stop reading NOW.

"You can lose weight and still enjoy your favorite foods - eat anything you like - just jump in the Mississippi River and swim. You should average say 11 or so miles a day. That's it. Shoulda stopped reading. You owe me \$49.95" - Billy

### THE IMP AT HEART

We've formed the Idiot & Moron Party (IMP) as a new political movement for these times. Honesty may well be its most important contribution to political discourse in America. The IMP motto is: "We don't know what to do either, but at least we admit it." You can start your own chapters. Do what you like. Let us know where you are, who's running for what and stay honest. We'll be a clearinghouse and produce some swell political paraphernalia.

### MAEP

Billy recently ended his 2-year term as a panelist for the Minnesota Artists Exhibition Program (MAEP). MAEP controls two dedicated galleries in the Minneapolis Art Institute and is the only artist run curatorial program in a major institution in the U.S. The artist panel is elected from the art community at an annual meeting. He was honored to serve in this unique program for the second time. Every 10 years, the program includes a massive "Foot in the Door" exhibition open to all MN artists. The works must fit into a one cubic foot box known as the "Curator". Time based works limited to one minute each were included for the first time in 2010. Billy responded with his environmental short video "Earth Speaks".

Incidentally, he continued the now long-standing tradition of playing solo incidental music in the fountain court before the annual meeting.

### AROUND TOWN AND ...WITOKA

Closer to home, Billy performed and/or screened solo work for Winona State University, Riverway Learning Community, and Winona's Family Art Day. He animated a logo for the Midwest Musicfest and performed with New X at their first annual festival. The band has been active in the studio and at Ed's Bar. The MWMF animation and clips from some of the New X shows are on YouTube.

The main studio and Witoka Contemporary are still in renovation. After a \$500 fee and hearing, the septic system drain field was finally approved. Alas, a chink in local legislation caused a pause.

A FASEM NOTE: Billy retired his position on the Board to devote more time to his projects.



*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@ridge-runner.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.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check here to be included for e-mail up-dates.

