



Volume 38 -2014-2015

www.billyx.net

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

WARNING: The eXperimental Art Research Terminal at Art Works USA has determined, after extensive testing, handling paper carelessly or turning pages too quickly can cause discomfort and even abrasions commonly referred to as “paper or papier cuts”. Please handle this volume with care.

InClimate: Climate Change Solutions, Awareness and Action: is a multi-year project conceived by Regina Cornwell and presented under the auspices of Franklin Furnace, NY. It calls on artists to collaborate with specialists and find solutions and antidotes to the problems of climate change. Billy was selected as one of its seven artists. Extended projects often change over time. *InClimate* was to begin June 2013 with a year of preparation and a second year of performances and exhibitions interrupted by a brief winter hiatus then an end in May 2015. Billy kind of jumped the gun and kicked off his *InClimate Blog* January 1, 2013 because he couldn't wait - the change was already upon us.

Billy's 11-season Mississippi River Swim was an extended performance with an environmental statement. The *InClimate Blog* is an extended performance with over 700 environmental statements... his head is still swimming. He's posted a thought, haiku, poem, fable or facts on climate change to cyberspace each and every day - without fail - since January 1, 2013. It's one artist's obsessive response to a changing climate. The source information is randomly drawn from independent research, printed matter and in person dialog stumbled upon by chance or plan and tempered with a Minnesota center of the nation, well-traveled artist perspective. Often unbeknownst to them, the sources become his collaborators. Check it out at billyx.net or [facebook.com/inclimate](https://www.facebook.com/inclimate) or shortened to a twitter tweet at twitter.com/BillyXC tweet tweet.

www.RollingNap.com: It is unequivocal. There is a direct link between human activity, over-activity and climate disruption. Sometimes solutions are not about doing more – but doing less... is more. We did the math

–The world's annual energy consumption would drop 623,292,349.6 kWh if everything shutdown an hour each day. Wake-up and take a nap. You know you work too hard for far too little. Take back your life. Demand downtime for naps, relaxation, meditation, hobbies, friends, family, lovers and all the things that make us human. It's not EZ, but you can do it. Billy the American Idle sets an example with, *the 24-hour Worldwide Rolling Nap*, a performance that calls for a paradigm shift and a system change to mitigate climate change. The *InClimate* Winter Hiatus is the perfect time to hibernate, to take a nap. *The 24-hour Worldwide Rolling Nap* is live art on a *Bed o' Nails/Blanket o' Tiny Tacks* from the installation *How Do You Sleep At Night?* It demonstrates even a hyperactive artist can slow down.

The secret location of the performance remains undisclosed. It will begin February 25, 2015 at 06:33 Central Standard Time OR the SNAFU alternate date is March 19, 2015 at 07:33 Central Daylight Savings Time. An Anonymous Indigenous once said something like: Only a white guy would think you could take a foot from the top of a blanket, put it at the bottom and have a longer blanket.



Manifesto & more info: *Fandango*, Vol. 37 at billyx.net *Rolling Nap* video click Links under “newest” You Tube.

SPORE ATTACK! Art historians may despair. But Billy says, “Don’t jump! It’s not worth it.” Mold was discovered in our extensive archive of rare live art video recordings - the day the tapes died. Billy sometimes delayed the laborious task of producing “canned work” in favor of new more pressing ideas. The one of a kind pieces never had the luxury of museum quality climate control and suffered environmental damage while in storage. A Moldy-Oldie restoration project is underway, but it’s a toughie.

Luckily, some works have found their way to DVD and safer homes like New York’s Museum of Modern Art Library and the Franklin Furnace Archives. The Hemispheric Institute of New York University is developing a collection of videos entitled *Franklin Furnace: Performance and Politics*. The Furnace’s founding director, Martha Wilson, has recommended Billy’s Hampton Award winning documentary *Swimming the Mississippi* for the edition. It will be posted on the Hemispheric Site for scholars who are studying social practice and preserved for about “300 years” ...or so.

NAMING RIGHTS: You can Nix the Art School drudgery, but still bask in the fun & adventure of famous artist highlife with an immodest investment. Naming rights for Billy X. Curmano masterpieces are up for grabs. In a dramatic shift in both practice and ideals, he’s selling out. No more turning down any sort of money. He’s realized the error of his ways and gone way commercial.

You can lay claim to authorship of selected works with a negotiated settlement, as long as you top corporate offers on the table. He’s anticipating deals with Miller Coors, Verizon Wireless and the Federal Government and looks to cleanup a cool mill-five on each deal. That may seem like chump change in the current art market where a piece like *Apocalypse Now* drew \$26.4 million at auction this November and this quote: “It isn’t much of a painting at all – just black letters on a 7-foot white background spelling out, in all caps, a line from Francis Ford Coppola’s *Apocalypse Now*: SELL THE HOUSE SELL THE CAR SELL THE KIDS.”* Sly Billy retains possession along with the copyrights of his work and can still sell them for those really big bucks later.

Billy represented the USA in the *III Vienna Graphikbiennale* with a series of paintings, likely to become *The Verizon Vienna Series*. His hometown brewery could re-brand the 2,367.4-mile Mississippi River Swim performance and environmental statement as Miller/Coors *Swimmin’ the River*. His Purple Heart

makes the artist’s 3 days buried alive a natural for the Fed as the *Arlington Performance for the Dead*.



*Excerpted from *Bloomberg Businessweek* © 2014 without permission and we wonder if poor Francis will ever get a cut.

PEOPLES’ CLIMATE TRAIN TRAIN: About 199 people rode the rails with Billy on the Peoples’ Climate Train “coast to coast for climate action” San Francisco to New York City. Okay, so he intercepted the steel wheels at Chicago’s Union Station on its eastbound journey. Another dedicated Amtrak from D.C., along with about 600 buses and other means of travel converged for the Peoples’ Climate March prior to the United Nations summit on climate change in September. The iron horse rolled into New York’s Penn Station from the Chicago leg a full night and day-later and about 3 hours late. Incidentally, the return trip delay on Amtrak #49, Lakeshore Limited to Chicago was even longer at 6.5 hours.



Amtrak waits for freights. The oil and gas boom has the rails clogged with rolling pipelines of highly volatile tanker trains. The long easterly hours and miles were

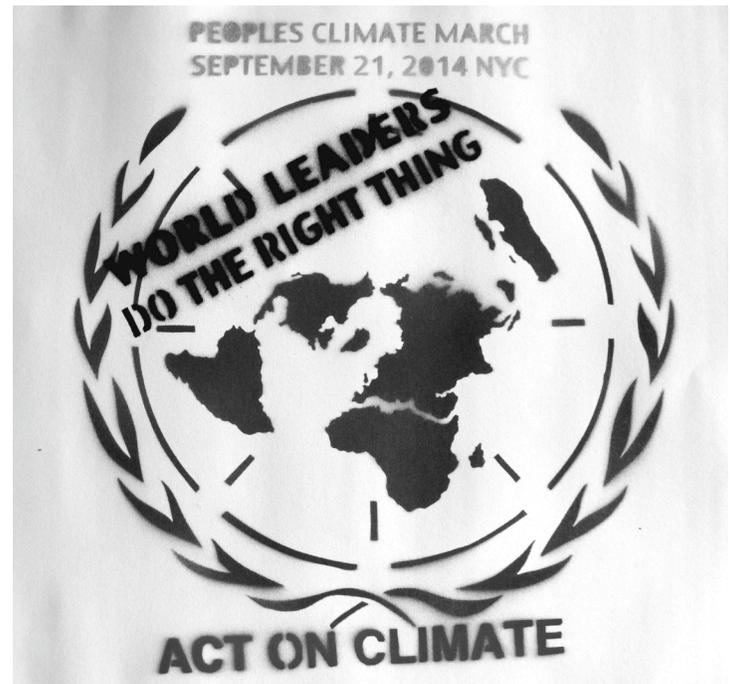
offset with workshops, dialogs, songs and meditations on the planet and social justice. Somewhere near Cleveland, OH, the unbroken chain of daily *InClimate* posts was thoroughly tested and almost interrupted at #627. His hot spot and computer became bedeviled after a cramped, bouncy night. He stumbled into the rolling overburdened bathroom to alleviate frustration with a clean sweep of his teeth. Several un-minted strokes later he realized this was no paste... it was shave cream in a tube... and he hacked it back up. He recovered. The hotspot and computer repented and #627 was launched to cyberspace.

Always at the ready to perform, he was armed with an mbira and battery powered Pig Nose amp. An organizer overheard him noodling a riff from his new climate tune, *I Think on These Things* softly in his seat. (Free download at billyx.net). She requested he play for the Peoples' Climate Train closing ceremonies. Billy was more than honored and provided a meditative undertone as the elders gathered. Waters were sprinkled. Buddhist bells chimed. Indigenous words were spoken and a collective Ohm sounded out. The ceremony repeated itself in all three dedicated train cars.

The activists were in high spirits at the long journey's end. They de-boarded chanting "The People United Will Never be Defeated" and loudly sang out their concerns. Large cardboard signs, cue cards, provided sing along words ... *a climate trains a'comin' ... coast to coast...* Writing is a solitary task and Billy reports feeling way alone when he posts the *InClimate Blog*. Climate is the issue of the times, yet people are often too busy with their lives to take note. These kindred spirits noticed and with a tear in his eye, he said he was lonesome no more.



It's past time to transition off long-dead fossil fuels.



PEOPLES' CLIMATE MARCH: *InClimate* #629 (Posted 9/12): I have no children, but I march for them anyway. I am an adult. Climate change means very little to me personally, but I march for all the children and their children, so they may see at least a portion of the beauty that I have been privileged to experience in my lifetime. It's really not fair that the greed of the current generation destroys their futures. It may have been acceptable in the past when we did not realize the consequences of our actions, but now as we know we are at a tipping point for catastrophic disruptions - it would be unforgivable to travel down this path of greed and profit at all cost. Wake up! Wake up!

The NYPD approved route: Columbus Circle down 59th Street to 6th Avenue to 42nd St. and back to 11th Avenue. The marchers just kept on coming. A moment of silence was called for climate victims and it fell eerily between the skyscrapers. It was followed by a spectacular sonic chant from 400,000 voices that rose like a wave from back to front and took one's breath away as it passed overhead.

There were signs and action art: *Don't Steal Our Future; Don't Worry Learn to Swim; Listen to the Farmer Within; Another Teamster For Climate Action; Build Community Not Corporations; Corporations Are Not People; Money Is Not Free Speech; Climate Justice* and so many more. Billy's white lab coat read "World Leaders Do The Right Thing, Act on Climate" He carried half of a large *Protect What You Love* banner in front of a 12-foot diameter inflatable earth carried by pallbearers. There were giant heads, a polar bear,

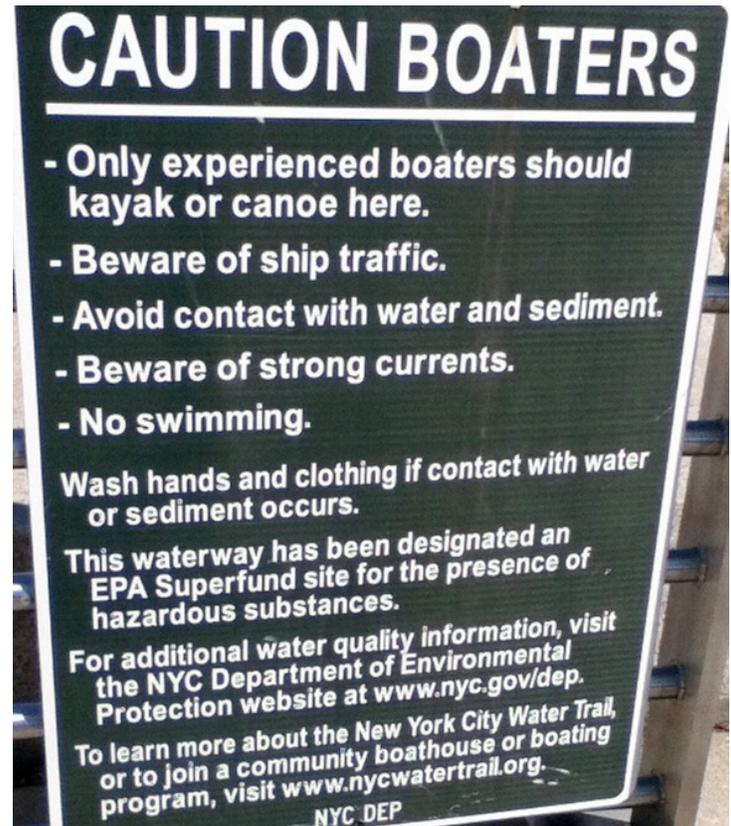
marching bands - Indigenous, labor, youth and spiritual groups. There was even a truck towing an ark at the ready for the flood.

Organizers had only anticipated about 100,000 or so, but the official count showed that 399,999 climate activists marched with Billy through the canyons of Manhattan. They demanded action on climate change, not just talk, from world leaders. There were another 2,646 solidarity events in 156 countries around the globe. All those good people worldwide invested precious time, energy and resources to wake their policymakers up. The 125 world leaders at the United Nations took notice and referenced the demands in their opening statements. President Obama said, "We can not pretend not to hear them."

FLOOD WALL STREET: The following day, Billy and 999 to 2,999 activists wore blue as the rising waters of climate change to symbolically flood Wall Street and dramatically highlight the greed that ignores the climate dangers. A large inflatable carbon bubble delighted protestors as it passed overhead... until the police burst it. The New York Stock Exchange action went on all day. The police were even patient and kindly re-routed traffic until about 7:45 p.m. when they ordered everyone to disband. Billy picks his battles and wasn't among the 104 arrested, but the Climate March "polar bear" was cuffed, taken-away and jailed for about 8 hours.

MESPAETHES AKA NEWTOWN CREEK: Billy and his support crews became Ambassadors for Clean Water during the Mississippi River Swim. They reclaimed the Misi-ziibi (Big River) a.k.a. the Mississippi for life affirming pursuits under the banner of art. He mixes water saved from the swim's first day as "Greetings" from the Mississippi to whichever World Waterway is at hand. The series has traveled far and wide including a greeting from *the Mississippi to the Arctic Sea*.

One late New York night, he slipped over the chain link fence and performed his *Greetings to the East River* near the India Street Ferry Landing in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. The following day brought on a special case: Newtown Creek (Mespæthes Great Brook with Tide) is an Environmental Protection Agency Super Fund Site in recovery. Sculptor George Trakas designed a nature walk along it and several native species have returned. Billy witnessed small fish, a crab and a gull bathing in the dangerous water. The warnings are abundant, but the creatures may not be readers.

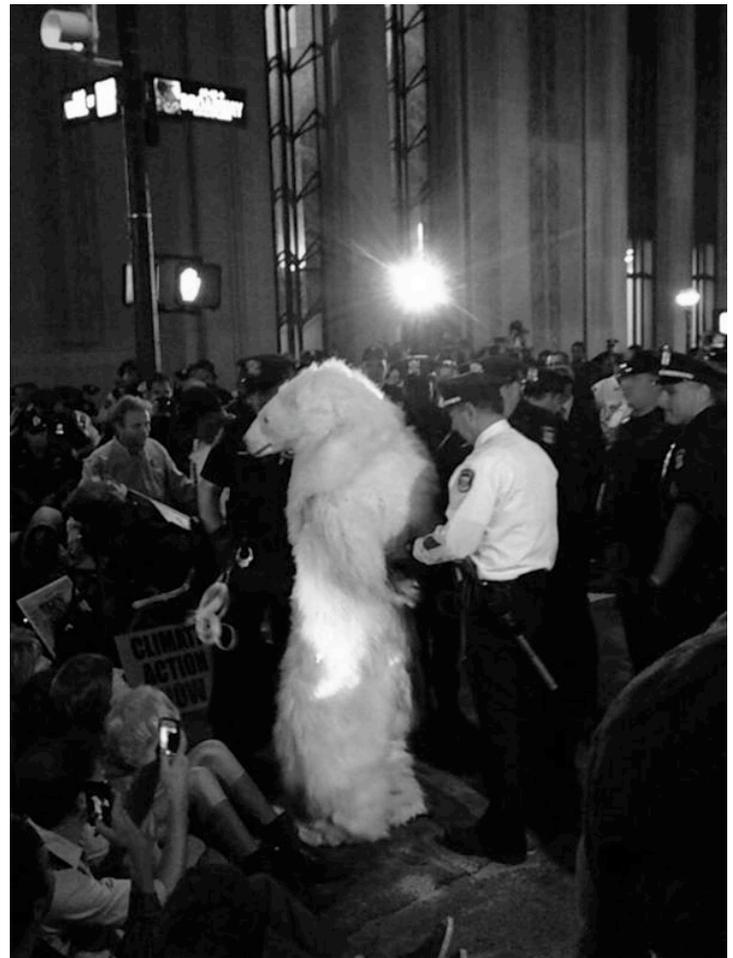


The sign said, "Wash hands and clothing if contact with water or sediment occurs", but Billy touched those waters and they sang out from the crystal he held along with his voice: "I bring *Greetings from Misi-ziibi to Mespæthes* because waters unite to flow with waters because all are subject to the same laws."

(*Greetings Mespæthes* at billyx.net click Links then "Newest" older videos under "Archived")



Some random climate action shots:



Carrying signs and protesting is silly if you don't have the facts - Science on climate is in and it's unequivocal.

Photos: Margarita Baumann & anonymous Internet.

<http://peoplesriverhistory.us> Wes Modes added an interview with Billy to his project "A Secret History of American River People, the lost narratives of river people, river communities, and the river itself" when they met across the old wagon bridge from Latsch Island on the Upper Mississippi. Wes had been plying the waters in an authentic shantyboat collecting stories for his river history site. The two hit it off with a mutual affinity for waterways and river rats.

PO4ever.com: Billy's *Great Moments in Performance Art Stamp Series* and a written statement were included in the Forecast Public Art and PO4evergroup exhibition honoring US Post Offices as endangered species. His statement begins, "I do not think of the Post Office as place, but rather as connection – between place." Read more/see more at their web page po4ever.com/gallery/stamps.

THE BLACK BOX: Two former sculptures, *Portrait of the Artist with Protective Mask* and *Billy's Head* have been reconfigured into *The Black Box* (13.5" X 13.5" X 11"). It's a self-portrait bust and as the head holds the brains... it could be very useful in investigating his death. The new sculpture complements his 2009 *In Case I Should Ever Be Murdered* that has DNA samples from relatives, lovers, friends and acquaintances all in a handy mailer for the FBI. Find the black box and ship the DNA. Case closed.

ROURKE MUSEUM 55TH: The Midwestern had shades of gray echoing, *Red to Green, Blue to Orange* and *Yellow to Violet*, three 20" X 28" acrylic washes from Billy's 1977 *Vienna Series*. In those, contiguous complementary colors caused light to vibrate at opposite edges of the picture space. The colors then very gradually blended to destroy the light as they muddied themselves across the center and transformed into their complement. He revisited the process on a panel, but the palette became: *Black to White; White to Black & Back* and spent the summer in the 55th *Midwestern Invitational Art Exhibition* at the Rourke Art Gallery Museum, Moorhead, MN.

SOUNDS NOT SILENCED: *New X* is on hiatus, or maybe worse, but the experimental sound and music still abounds. Billy is working with former Xer's in several incarnations and playing with himself in solo shows. Highlights include an unaccompanied featured set for the Bosso Poetry Company's 6th anniversary in "Nord-East" Minneapolis, some solo incidental music and an appearance with TriOx at Marvin Gardens.

AND LASTLY: Don't forget the store at billyx.net for ALL your FINE ART shopping needs.

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 2015 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.