

Volume 37 - 2013-2014

www.billyx.net

The Fandango: Mail doesn't have to be Junk.

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

good. We did the math. If everything shut down for just an hour each day for one year, worldwide energy consumption could go down a good **623,292,349.6 kWh**. Maybe we can't turn everything off, but we can demand a break. The greed of hyper hyper capitalists sabotaged the Siesta. Billy wants to take it back.

Cloak & Dagger: CIA > MoMA > BILLY X < FBI
 New York City's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) was built by the Rockefeller Family. Of course, when they donated art from their own collection it increased the value of their remaining art and artists – but that's fodder for another day.

MoMA's roots to the CIA can be traced to Nelson Rockefeller appointing future spook Tom Braden as its secretary in 1948. An expose by John Meroney shows how the Cold War Era C.I.A. used MoMA to win the hearts and minds of European leftists previously leaning towards the Soviets. The superpowers may have been well matched, but just imagine, the Soviet worldview dictated a Stalinist concept of culture that attacked and even liquidated modern art and artists for reflecting Western Decadence.

Tom Braden was inspired while at MoMA to showcase the freedom of expression inherent in modern art. He organized exhibitions and concerts in Europe funded by C.I.A. fronts like the Congress for Cultural Freedom in Paris and other "Foundations".

The CIA and FBI are often mentioned in the same hushed breath and the latter's focus on a much younger Billy can finally be revealed. He was surprised by a call from UWM gallery director, John Krushenick, informing him F.B.I. agents were viewing his work and taking notes at a group honors exhibition. After a dramatic pause the director noted, the F.B.I. was only interested in Billy's work. An apparent love of art carried them a step further and right to Billy's door at the infamous *Booth House* collective where they whipped out credentials and requested a "tour". Several years later, MoMA purchased a portion of Billy's archives for their library and somewhat later his



One question almost inevitably follows Billy's interviews and live appearances. What's next? After extreme performances like his 2,367.4-mile Mississippi River Swim, 3-day live burial, 40-day Death Valley Desert Fast or 6,000-mile Greyhound Tour, he's ready for a nap. He says, "humans probably do the least damage to the environment when they sleep, so... I'll be napping next."

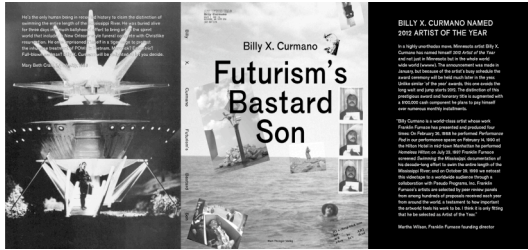
AMERICAN IDLE

Billy X. becomes the American at Idle in his latest work in progress the *24-Hour World Wide Rolling Nap* - which is in fact - just that. It's an attempt by a somewhat hyperactive artist to control impulses and nap for 24 hours.

It sets an example to simply slow down and accepts the wonders and possibilities of idleness for the greater

book's U.S. release was held at MoMA P.S. 1 in Queens - bringing this cloak & dagger tale full circle.

NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLERS LIST



omits:

Billy X. Curmano *FUTURISM'S BASTARD SON*
108th straight week. Hard to believe, but it's true.

Help get this volume out. Ask for it at bookstores and libraries. Help those institutional wanna-have-its with budget restraints in trying times. Generous donors at the rescue have gifted art departments, museums, libraries, and individuals. Join the movement. Show your copy around. If there is interest, let us know or take direct action. Get it anytime on line at www.billyx.net/store Have someone's credit card at the ready. We'll even throw in a bookplate to acknowledge donors. Special thanks to donors: Margarita Baumann, Susan Russell and Steve Smith.

IPCC: Human Link to Climate Is Unequivocal

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is comprised of the world's leading scientists. They have found it "unequivocal" that human activity – may we add over-activity? - is a cause of climate change, yet the neighing nay-sayers think they know better.

Billy's never been a one trick pony with tunnel vision, so you may wonder why such a strong focus on this issue. It's the big one. Catastrophic climate change impacts the whole wide world, all species and our place within it.

US Senator (I-VT) Bernie Sanders expressed our view eloquently, "Big business is willing to destroy the planet for short-term profits. I regard that as just incomprehensible. Incomprehensible."

Less Is More.

Long hours and lack of sleep have been proven to be bad for productivity. In the early 1800's, labor unions in the US and UK fought for the 40-hour workweek. By century's end, it was well established that cutting

workers' hours made businesses more productive and profitable. Of course, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) carried things a bit further calling for a 20-hour week. We're all for that, but if not that, at least, give us real breaks. Studies show most workers have only about six productive hours in a day.

Rolling Nap Rolls Out

The *Rolling Nap* is an intermedia mix-up of live - albeit sleepy - performance art from within an installation with traditional objects. Virtually, its tracks include the *InClimate billyx.net/blog* with daily thoughts on climate disruption, as well as an interactive dedicated web site at rollingnap.com and plans for a cyber art web cast.

The installation, *How Do You Sleep At Night?* has objects from the artist's bedroom inspired from years of horrific nightmares and the interrupted sleep of the burdened. Highlights include a *Bed o' Nails/Blanket o' Tiny Tacks*, *24-hour Analog Clock* and the *Abstract Buddha with Canonical Proportions*.

The live art of the *World Wide Rolling Nap* rolled out slowly. It was first hinted at on Feb. 1 with *InClimate #32: Slow Down* followed most appropriately on Labor Day by *The World Wide Rolling Nap Manifesto* - a call for all - everyone everywhere to stop activity for at least an hour each day to nap, meditate or in some way just relax. Web mistress Monta May launched the dedicated web site rollingnap.com to accommodate testimonials, photos and nap related ephemera. Relax take off your slax. Wake-up! Wake-up! Wake-up and take a nap.

Caveat: Overpopulation exacerbates all the world's problems. If you choose to do more than sleep with another, please remember birth control.

Incidentally - as those napping hours slowly circle the globe - it fulfills Billy's deep-seated creepy fantasy to sleep with just about everyone.

Billy Book Way Shocked To Be Blocked

What a shock! A single word in the Billy book's title sent auto-blocks a-blocking and sabotaged the good news releases. The prudishly feint of heart clutched an extremely dated naughty word list and ignored context. *Futurism's Bastard Son* news releases were too racy for among other media outlets, national public radio, but looky here:

bas tard *n.* **1.** An illegitimate child. **2.** Any irregular, inferior, or counterfeit thing. **3.** A hybrid **4.** *U.S. Slang* A worthless or cruel man. **5.** *Brit. Informal* A fellow; chap: a somewhat disparaging term. – *adj.* **1.** Born out of wedlock. **2.** False; spurious. **3.** Resembling but not typical of the genuine thing: *bastard mahogany*. **4.** Abnormal or irregular in size, shape or proportion.

Interject *Adj.* #2 for the namby-pamby title:

Billy X. Curmano

Futurism's False; Spurious Son

Self-deprecating Billy would allow other interpretations as well.

In the interest of full disclosure, we must admit that although Billy has Italian genes, it hasn't been proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that they link directly to any of the Italian Futurists, but then again examine his work. Remember this one? Circa the 1970's:

The Household Word Project

Please cut out or photocopy the definition and paste it in dictionaries, encyclopedias and other reference works. (Note: Treat alphabetically as a compound word. Often follows billy, billycock etc.)

Bil·ly Cur·man·o (bíl'ē kūr măn'ō) *n.*
1. A household word. **2.** An artist attempting to become a household word through the use of bizarre projects, eccentric behavior, and other cheap tricks.



Billy Curmano

The book's optional DVD, *Live Art THE SEARCH (For the Spiritual in Art)* added a tad more title confusion. The spiritual in this case has absolutely nothing to do with religion. He interprets *the spiritual in art* as that indefinable quality that separates a masterpiece from hobby art. He stumbled upon Kandinski's *The Spiritual in Art* while rifling a reduced book table at the Georgia O'Keefe Museum in New Mexico and wasn't all that surprised to find this greatly admired artist used the term likewise. – Coincidence? We think not.

In spite of misguided attempts to quell and quash the book and DVD, they have slipped passed their share of gatekeepers both here and abroad.

InClimate: He thought Therefore He Was

Billy was selected for *InClimate*, a project addressing the changing climate, curated by Regina Cornwell under the auspices of Martha Wilson and New York City's famed Franklin Furnace. He's focused on the issue before, but the new project upped the ante. He has

read, written, napped and then posted thoughts to the World Wide Web on the changing climate every day since January 1, 2013. The posts have been collected and reposted on *InClimate's* Facebook page.

"Is I is or is I was? I think therefore I am. Better adjust to climatic changes or it'll be - I thought therefore I was", says he.

The cold facts that educate and convince do-nothing doubters are balanced by parables, fables and whatever else he can create or discover to offer hope for the future.

There's been: Green and clean power progress. How kids with seed bombs helped restore protective coastal vegetation after Super Storm Sandy. A "Send *Global Warming for Dummies* to Dummies Campaign" for politicians and policy makers still stuck in the mud. How To's like, help plant a billion trees and of course *The TX Oil Man Meets IA Wind Farmer* fable.

Practical tips include ways to decrease your personal carbon footprint, how to divest from fossil fuel then reinvest in the green economy and ways to join the sharing community.

Nov. 9 *InClimate* #313 *A Haiku for you:*

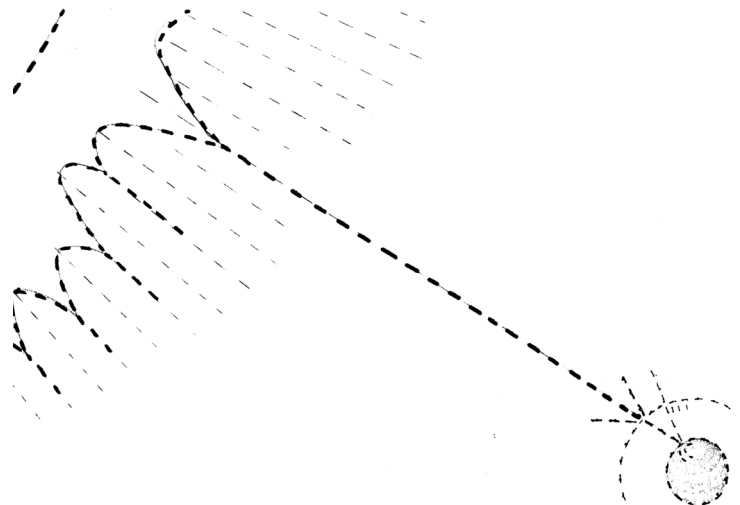
This modern world

Energy greed

Poof!

Didactic Live Art Panels

Billy was inspired by those museum panels that educate and tell a story with words, graphics and flashing lights. His versions are highly portable performative didactic panels lit by a hand held LED flashlight. The first panel illuminated the evaporation and condensation of the planet's water cycle. The second isolates a sunbeam as it splits and is reflected, absorbed, trapped or escapes from earth and its atmosphere.



Only some of the Sun's Rays Target Earth:

Some rays are reflected by the planet's atmosphere. Some hit earth and are absorbed - but some are reflected back and are either trapped by earth's atmosphere for the Greenhouse Affect or escape back to space.

Grand Opening Super Colossal Mega Art Mall

Billy ventures into the dark side of Hyper-Capitalism with the grand opening of his personal super colossal mega art mall. It's home to Billy's Tiny Card Company the new Witoka Contemporary, and the international headquarters of Art Works USA. For your shopping convenience, the Art Studio, Gallery, Museum, Sculpture Garden, Grotto, eXperimental Sound Lab and Fine Art Reading Room are all joined in a one-stop, but bound to bring you back experience.

The Grand Opening with art, music, food and fun is tentatively scheduled for May 2014.

Official Organic Cotton Rolling Nap T Shirt

You're gonna want one of these for the mall and way beyond. The *Rolling Nap* logo in blue (See front page) on a natural organic cotton T. Order online or at Art Works USA \$15 s-xlg \$20 to xx-xxlg plus \$5.00 S/H.

Best of Our Recollections in a Year End Collection:

Feb. found Billy in NYC. The Barnesville Easel people offered their booth for his book signing at the College Art Association Annual Conference Book and Trade Fair. He signed again at the CAA Art Exchange and stayed in the city to research *InClimate* and the *Rolling Nap* including a day at the United Nations. He went back for a few Oct. weeks and gave a lecture on his intermedia art approach at his Alma mater, the Art Students League of New York.

He was represented in the 54th Midwestern Invitational with, *Signed, Sealed and Delivered*, a work that traveled through the mail and required a signature before delivery to the Rourke Art Museum.

Closer to home, the 30-year anniversary of his live burial prompted an intermedia, *Performance for the Dead @ 30*, celebration at the Witoka Contemporary. Revelers ignored the ongoing construction and ate, drank and made merry with video clips, tours and live music from Billy's latest musical incarnation, *TriOx*.

The band plays regularly in the experimental sound lab and intermittently around town including at the Mid West Music Fest, The Bookshelf and Broken World Records. Their first away gig was the Icebox Gallery's anniversary celebration in North East Minneapolis.

Billy's semi-autobiographical cartoon strip *Oxy the Wise Bomb's* latest adventure is on the web at vvaw.org and in print in *The Veteran* (Vol. 43 #2). Spoiler alert, Oxy Moron the smart bomb blew up - then wised up - a few

episodes back. Now, he's finally been diagnosed Cynically Depressed with Post Dramatic Dress Disorder.

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.