

Interview (Nuke One)

Roy Blair

Between '86 and '88, I'd say I had to do more than a dozen pieces Yeah, at least twelve to fifteen pieces of my own

Man, I would- I would go throughout the 90's, I think that's when it saw it's climax right there because by that time everybody was really strong

Well a couple months later, the Mexican men that arrived there to start paying the Mayan ball game, the ancient game of Tarasca. And when I saw that, well all of a sudden, I showed up to Belmont and us riders started hearing that, "Hey, these Mexican men, they're playing this handball game right there", "What?", and I had to go see for myself

And I was like, "this is like being in the ancient temples of the Aztecs and the Mayans", looking at all the artworks, the hieroglyphics, and here's the men playing the ball game

It's because of that, because of the game showing up that Belmont's life extends a little more, you know? So now, it's not just an area that you can go paint, but now it's more of an open park, you know, and there's life and vitality there, there's people selling corn right there, and the riders, for the first time start, hm, really connecting to the place, looking forward to go paint there and, and-

The things that we do, you know? To hold on to what's dear to us

And you know, we didn't know what was gonna happen with the Belmont, there was talks of them developing it and stuff like that, you know?

And by that time, 2002/2003, I think they were moving towards bulldozing it and there was even a whole movement to stop it

You know? And yet, Belmont had given so much, so much! You know, and I'm amazed it got that far! You know, so we're talking about late '70s, through the '80s, through the- that's over, at least over twenty five years of work, a couple extra from 2000's and

There was this one kid that stood in front of the bulldozers, the day that they came to bulldoze it up

Yeah, Belmont offered a lot of possibilities, you know, and people would go to great lengths to, to protect it

You gotta tell some of these stories man, you gotta pass these things on, you know? So that, so that they're remembered, man

Gives validation to what we put in, you know? Makes it all worth while, man, you know?

I don't know about you Roy, but like for me, again, you know? My family was like "what the hell are you doing? You know? They did support me, but they were like- they didn't know what to do, Yeah
You know? "So, you're on your own kid!?, Yeah
You know?

Okay, fuck it, I'm on my own, and I went to go find, uh, like-minded people at a place like Belmont, you know?

It's places like Belmont, you take it with you, look all this? All these pieces here, it's- it's because of Belmont, you know?

The fact that people took the initiative. to take these spaces, you know? That's Belmont energy, you know?

This last piece, I'll show you, you'll understand