

HighlandParkNews

Coming full circle

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By MARLENE HUNT Staff Writer

School designer Ted Haug's seemingly endless journeys circling the globe are finally over.

Not around this planet, but trips around a five-foot diameter globe standing more than 10 feet high.

Haug, a Waukegan architect, who designed Vernon Hills High School, Townline Elementary School in Vernon Hills, and Viking Junior High in Gurnee, worked out of a warehouse in Vernon Hills to create his entry into Cool Globes: Hot Ideas For A Cooler Planet, this summer's public art exhibit in Chicago. The summer exhibit is a partnership with the city's department of environment and the Field Museum.

He was joined evenings and weekends by local artists Linda Doyle and Andrea Harris of Mundelein; Nina Weiss and Beth Shadur of Highland Park, and Sandra Bacon of Lake Bluff -- all working up to last Friday's deadline to complete their entries to illustrate various solutions to global warming.

"Having the space in Vernon Hills certainly beat traveling to Ravenswood in Chicago," said Doyle while waiting for the moving company hired to transport their globes to Chicago.

Friday's peek was the first allowed to view the Lake County entries before they are unveiled for this summer's public art exhibit. The 125 globes created for the summer project will be mounted at different locations along bicycle trails adjacent to Grant Park, Buckingham Fountain and Millennium Park, at Navy Pier, along Michigan Avenue to the campus of the Field Museum of Natural History.

Credit Wendy Abrams of Highland Park for the Cool Globes idea. Abrams -- mother of four and eco-advocate -- is the daughter of the founder of Medline Industries, a family owned and managed company headquartered in Mundelein.

"What is unique about Cool Globes is that it's an unusual alliance," Abrams said. "I've tried not to be political. We've got an incredible group of people who stepped-up on this issue."

Abrams said private sector companies and environmental organizations have been very involved. To extend the reach of Cool Globes, a book will be published.

"It's going to be about solutions to global warming," Abrams said. "It's a story we want to tell. It's a way to take Cool Globes beyond this summer in the city."

Artists like Doyle are thrilled the medium of public art is being used to stir increased awareness of and promote solutions for global warming. The Chicago public art exhibit debuted in 1999 when hundreds of painted cows were displayed throughout downtown Chicago.

After the exhibit ends in September, the Cool Globes will be auctioned off with the proceeds used to fund environmental programs in Chicago public schools.

Haug's entry

Haug estimates he spent 200 to 300 hours on his entry, Solar Earth.

"The world has experienced increased energy consumption and diminishing energy reserves and resources limiting its capacity to provide for its living inhabitants," he said while standing on a chair to adjust the top of his solar world.

Haug used "light holes" and orange color to mark areas of high energy use. His entry also advances use of photovoltaic solar panels to provide for a portion of the world's energy needs.

"In our design, photovoltaic panels on the ocean areas charge batteries during the daylight hours, and then at night, activated by photo sensors, powers LED energy efficient lamps that light the urban 'holes' on the globe," he said.

Andrea Harris

Mixed media was the choice of Mundelein resident Andrea Harris to create textures and portraits for her entry: Facing the Earth.

Harris said each portrait on her globe required multiple processes of sealing, painting and topcoats. For some portrait 'squares,' the process was repeated four times before the final varnish was applied.

Harris selected cool color palette as the backdrop for the individually painted portraits sculpted onto the globe.

"Each represents an 'Eco Hero' who has initiated global change. Some of my 'Hero's' are well-known while others may not be easily recognized," she said. "My hope is that the viewer will become interested to learn more about each person and their achievement -- ultimately igniting interest to explore our responsibilities and initiate positive change."

Linda Doyle

Mundelein artist Linda Doyle used acrylic paints for her entry: Leave a Legacy-Bike Around. Doyle specializes in children's rooms and faux finishes, and she exhibits in area

galleries and considers herself "passionate" about Chicago Mayor Richard Daley's plan to improve trails and bike lanes.

"My entry proposes using a bicycle instead of a car to get around," she said. "It helps you to slow down and enjoy nature. It's fun for your whole family. It encourages health and fitness. And you can now take your bike with you on public transportation and the parking is free when you there!"

Cheryl Steiger

Living and working out of Highland Park, Steiger does commercial and fine art and exhibits locally. She teaches at the Art Center in Highland Park and The Evanston Art Center.

Steiger said her globe, 'Carpool,' emphasizes several important roles that individuals can play in helping the Earth's environments, including driving high-efficiency, energy-friendly 'green' cars, and car-pooling to reduce fossil fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions.

"My globe shows the concentration of cars relative to the world's population and how different models of cars compare to one another in fuel consumption and emissions. We can all make a difference through choices we make in our everyday lives," she said.

Sandra Bacon

Versatile Lake Bluff artist Sandra Bacon is known for both murals and paintings. Her recent public art commissions were exhibited in Washington D.C., and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh; and galleries in Chicago, California and Maryland.

Two of her entries were accepted for the Chicago exhibit.

"Walk a Mile in My Shoes' is based on the theme of carbon footprints and the impact man has made on changing our environment: Specifically, the decimation of natural habitats and how it has affected our wildlife," she said.

She used images of animals such as the polar bear and frogs to show the effects of pollution. Included on the base of the globe are shoes (or footprints) painted like animals.

A second entry, "Ripples" illustrates how former President Bill Clinton helped to develop political and economic strategies in major cities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"The cities are shown as ripples -- the vibrations of positive energy affecting the next," she said.

Nina Weiss

Nina Weiss of Highland Park began studying art in New York and continued her interest abroad and at the University of Wisconsin.

Weiss used acrylics, copperleaf and copper wire to create her globe, "Tall Grass."

"The theme of the globe is using tall grasses globally as a renewable resource as biomass fuel, and for prairie restoration for the recycling of CO₂ in our atmosphere," Weiss explained.

The colors of her globe have the feel of a vintage map. "Each continent has a copper leaf insert with a painted illustration of the tall grasses native to that area," she said. In the latitudinal lines, Weiss painted equations of biomass energy transfer and other pertinent formulas.

Weiss said her love of landscape as a subject matter developed upon moving from the East Coast to the Midwest in 1980. She travels throughout the United States and overseas to gather material for her landscape, and returns to Europe every summer to draw and teach. She currently teaches at the Art Institute in Chicago, Columbia College and the Evanston Art Center. Her works are represented in many corporate and private collections, including McDonalds, Aetna Insurance, Eli Lilly, United Airlines, Avon and Deloitte Touche.

Beth Shadur

Beth Shadur of Highland Park chose the theme "The Seventh Generation" based on the idea that in Native American culture, the earth is valued and cared for to save for the seventh generation to come. "This is a concept developed by the turtle clan of the Iroquois Nation."

Shadur used various symbols, including Native American, to indicate how various world cultures place ecological value on the earth. Her entry includes quotes on how to care for the earth.

"I used native Illinois plants in the earth area to indicate the saving of water as practiced by most Native American tribes," she said.

"I included text by an Iroquois clan leader regarding the Seventh Generation. He remarked how each generation should leave the earth no worse than they found it by treading with 'light footsteps,' as a "sacred duty."