

## ▶▶ A LA ART

# Well-rounded artist paints globe for global warming



**KURT BEGALKA**

Chicago's latest public arts project has a local representative.

Bull Valley artist Nancy Steinmeyer is participating in "Cool Globes: Hot Ideas for a Cooler Planet," designed to increase awareness of and promote solutions to global warming. The project unites corporations, government, non-profit organizations and the community at large to increase awareness of global warming. It is similar to the 1999 Cows on Parade project.

A hundred fiberglass globes - 5 feet in diameter weighing about 100 pounds - will be displayed between June and September along Chicago's lakefront, adjacent to the Field Museum and Navy Pier. An opening gala June 2 will kick off the exhibition.

Steinmeyer, a professional artist for more than 30 years, was thrilled to be selected from more than 1,000 entries.

"People are interested in global warming, and that is a big topic for me now," she said. "I'm a global warrior. Their needs to be a behavioral change."

Steinmeyer submitted two ideas to Cool Globes in October, one of which was rejected in January. But within a couple weeks of the rejection letter, the city notified her it would be delivering a globe. It arrived Feb. 20 in the midst of a cold snap. She maintained a temperate bunker of sorts in her garage using a thin, reflective tarp, thermometer and a couple space heaters.



Photo provided

**Bull Valley artist Nancy Steinmeyer designed this entry for "Cool Globes: Hot Ideas for a Cooler Planet."**

"I put a TV in it, foam core on the floor and carpeting in it," Steinmeyer said. "And that is where I spent six weeks."

The outdoor enamel paint she used required at least 50 degrees for application and proper drying.

Steinmeyer's globe design, titled "First We Scream, Then We Act," features a background of brightly painted concentric circles with a black outline of a drawing of Edvard Munch's famous "The Cry." On the other side of the globe, brighter colors outline and cover the continents to depict the jet stream. Over this colorful pattern is an outline drawing of James Montgomery Flagg's Uncle Sam, urging us toward action.

"Acting on it has become very important. I've made a lot of changes in my life in the last eight months," Steinmeyer said. "If (everyone could) exchange three 60-watt incandescent bulbs for three CFL (compact fluores-

cent bulbs), it is the equivalent of taking 3.5 million cars off the road. My poor husband wants to warm up the water to brush his teeth and I loom over him like he's evil."

Steinmeyer said she received \$2,000 to offset the cost of materials. She hopes to add some final touches prior to the globe leaving her house April 22.

In the meantime she has focused on creating global-warming materials for children, including board games, puzzles and story book for second-, third- and fourth-graders. She also is showing a series of pet-themed painted wood constructions, "Famanimalies," through June at Café Luna Express & Juice Bar, 6230 Northwest Highway in Crystal Lake.

For information, visit [www.nlsteinmeyer.com](http://www.nlsteinmeyer.com) and [www.coolglobes.com](http://www.coolglobes.com).

• Kurt Begalka can be reached at [kbegalka@nwnews-group.com](mailto:kbegalka@nwnews-group.com).