



ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS IN MAPS MADE BY CHILDREN



The Barbara Petchenik World Map Award

Barbara Petchenik (Canada, 1939-1992) was a past Vice president of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and cartographer who worked on the theme of maps related to children. Honoring her efforts on the development of cartographical research related to this topic, the ICA organizes a biannual international map competition for children from 1993.

The main aim of the contest is to promote the creative representation of the world in graphic form by children. Participant children are encouraged to draw a map on a general theme changed every four years („Save our Environment”, „Many Nations, one World”). The competition is divided in two levels: the first one a national competition, when the local organizers select five winner maps to represent their country in the second level (the international competition).

Map drawings are judged in three age groups (under 9, 10-12, and 13-15 years), giving a maximum of seven awards, completed by three public awards (one by each age group) given by the participants in ICC conferences.

The Hungarian Competition

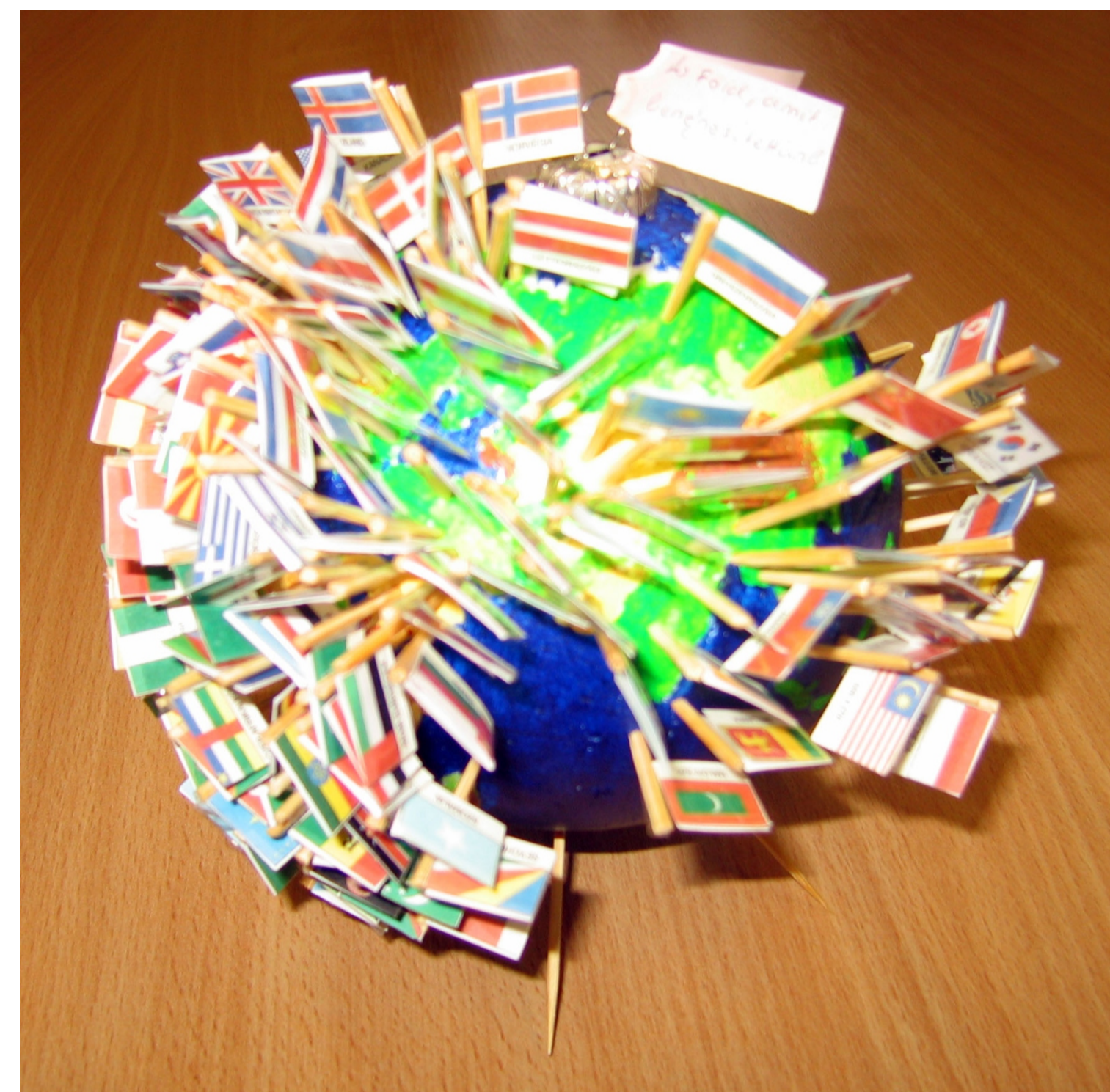
The Barbara Petchenik Competition is organized in Hungary from 1993, being proud of the results reached by our children in the international contests, obtaining 5 prizes during the last eight years.

Systematizing children maps

The maps made by Hungarian children give us a very wide spectrum of potential categories for their classification, based on the solutions used to draw the “base map” or to represent the thematic information (in this case the message of the competition). The following examples are only a narrow selection to illustrate all the possible themes that are waiting for the colleagues interested in this field of research...

Types of representation of the world

- 2D or 3D (spheres, relief models, etc)



Brigitta Pethő Tóth (15 years), title: „A populated planet” (2005)

Types of representation of the world

- Projection of the Earth or selected territory to a 2D plane:

- No map projection (characteristic to children less than 9 years old)
- Using (copying) a traditional (conventional) cartographic projection
- Exaggerated deformation of the territory represented on the “map”, but based on a map projection.

- Representation of the territory with unusual shapes: Human shapes, animal shapes, botanical shapes (the Earth as a flower or other plant, tree), artificial shapes (the Earth as a bus, house, etc)...

Graphic solutions to place the map to a pictorial environment (connection between map and “outer” illustrations)

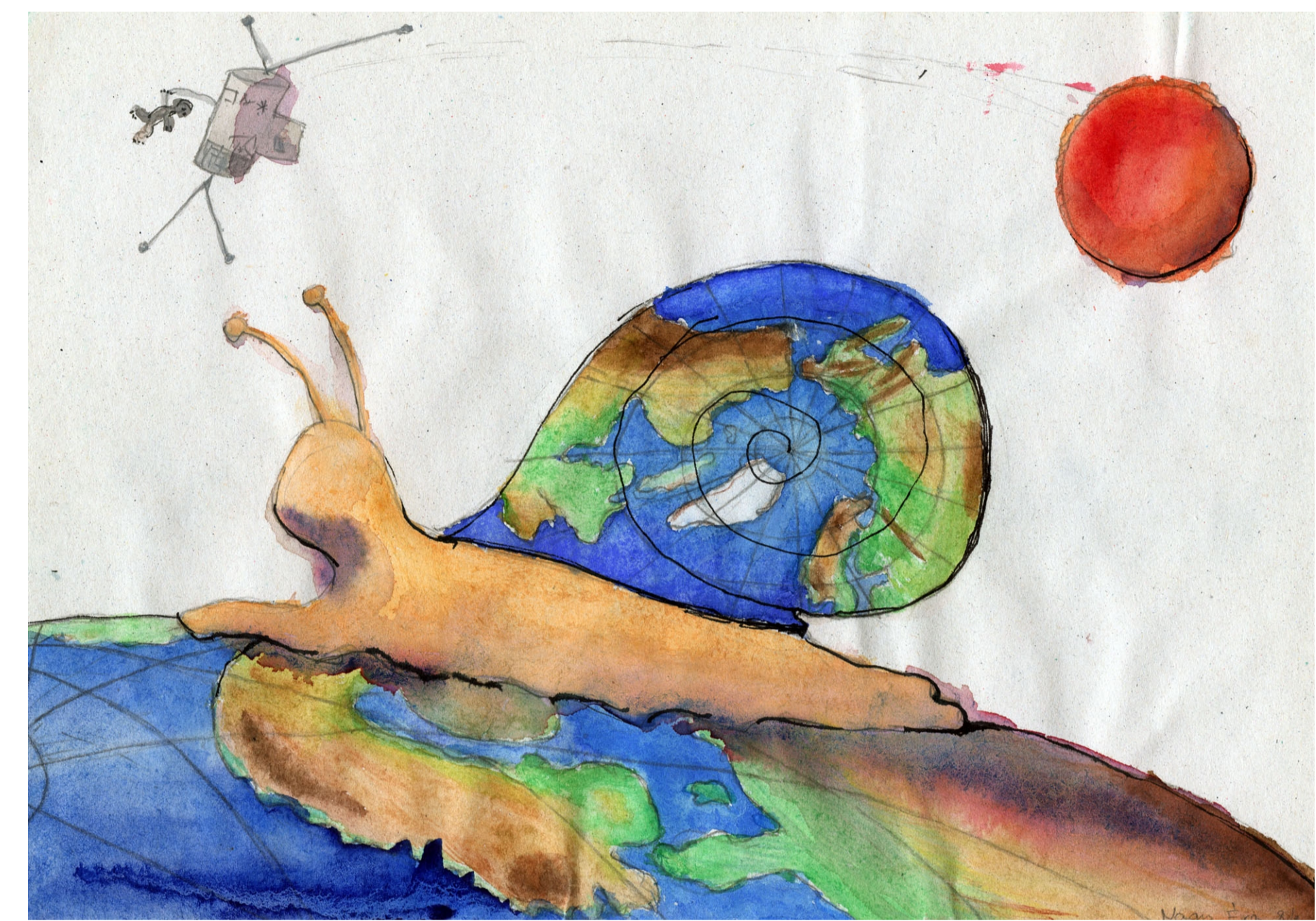
- human connection (Earth on human hands)
- animal connection
- botanical connection
- artificial connection

Ways to represent a message according to the theme:

- Positive
- Negative

Technologies used to make the maps

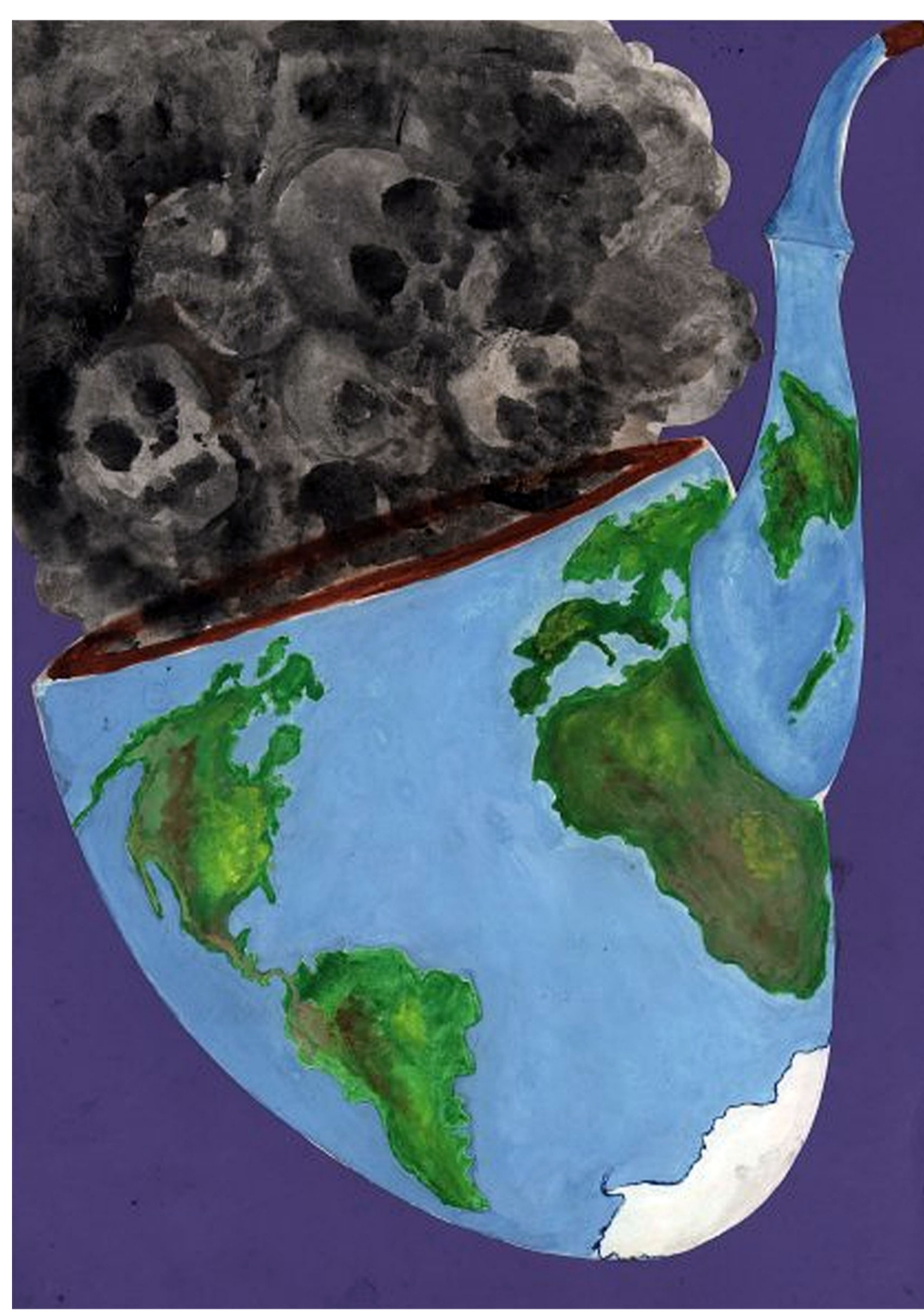
- Traditional or conventional (handmade)
- Digital (computer made)
- Their combination...



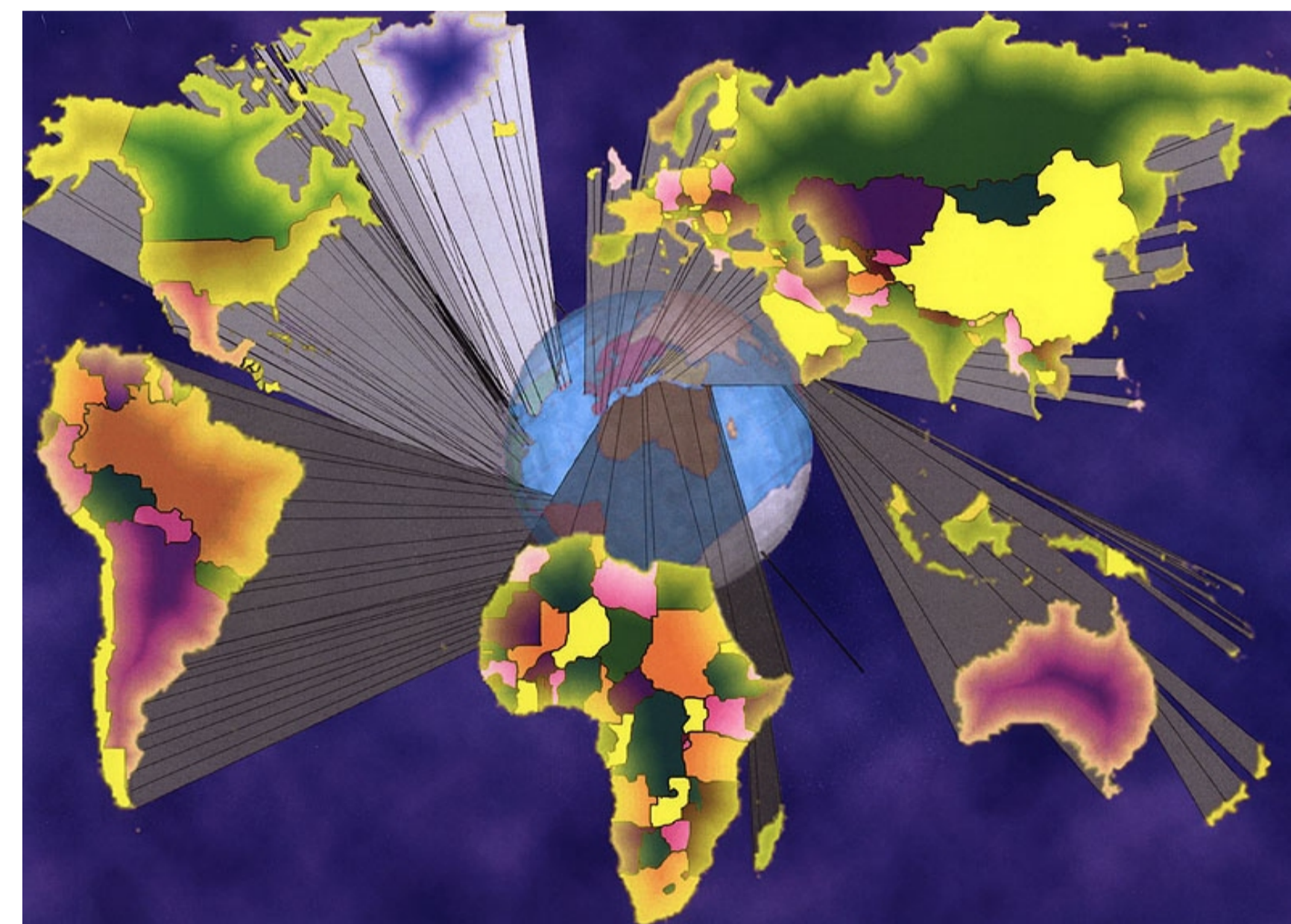
Eva Nagy (14 years), title: „Development on Earth and space” (1999)



Árpád Barsony (4 years), title: „You can not do it alone!” (1999)



Ágnes Horváth (15 years), title: „No smoking” (1993)



Tamás Csikós (14 years), title: „Surpassing countries” (2007)



Szilvia Szabó (14 years), title: „World-Skin” (1999)

Techniques used to draw the maps

- Pencil, pen, paintbrush (oil paint or other)
- Photo montage
- Artisan, using different kinds of materials:
 - Natural: seed (beans), flowers, leaves, etc.
 - Artificial or man made: paper, plastic, textile, etc.



Adrienn Surányi (15 years), title: „Gold mines on the world” (1999)



Tamás Susóczki, Dávid Gere (12 years), title: „Land of indians” (2005)



Orsolya Valkó (15 years), title: „Care for our country!” (2001)



Szabina Tóth (11 years), title: „Communication between countries” (2001)



Alexandra Kis (15 years), title: „Making place for good many people” (2005)

References
Commission on Cartography and Children [Online] Available: <http://lazarus.elte.hu/ccc/ccc.htm> [10 December 2007]
Children map their world [Online] Available: <http://children.library.carleton.ca/> [10 December 2007]
Gurjanovaitė, K. and Beconyte, G. (2007) Cartographic analysis of general geographic elements in children mental maps, Moscow: ICC2007 Conference proceedings (Electronic)

Author: José Jesús Reyes Nuñez
Eötvös Loránd University
Department of Cartography and Geoinformatics
Budapest, Hungary
Email: jesus@ludens.elte.hu



Cartography and Art – Art and Cartography

Kristóf Bársony (8 years), title: „Wake up, man! Perhaps it is not too late!” (2001)

Gabriella Fink and György Viszti (12 years), title: „Care our Earth for the future generations!” (2003)



Virág Kelle (15 years), title: „Continents” (2001)

József Bodor (11 years), title: „Flower world” (1999)

Evelin Demeter (12 years), title: „Help our Earth!” (2005)