

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Cold Comfort: Knit Graffiti by Melissa Maddonni Haims***

**At the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education**

**February 24 – April 30, 2012**

***Opening reception March 10, 1:00 – 4:00 pm***



(Philadelphia, February 15, 2012) The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education is pleased to present ***Cold Comfort***, on display along the center's trails and in the visitor center from February 24 through April 30, 2012. Philadelphia-based artist Melissa Maddonni Haims "knit bombs" the Schuylkill Center, enlivening the brown and grey winter landscape by wrapping tree trunks with brightly colored yarn cozies.

Thirty separate installations made from yarns, Madagascar grasses and "plarn" (plastic bags made into yarn) appear along the center's Widener Trail and main driveway, inviting winter travelers to stroll the woods and see them anew. Additional works by the artist are on view in the main building gallery. *Cold Comfort* celebrates traditional handwork techniques with nontraditional materials in unexpected places.

Knit or yarn "bombing" has made an international splash in the last few years. The genre blends the crafts of knitting and crocheting with site-specific installation, transforming public objects such as sign posts and bike racks into clever street art. The Schuylkill Center presents Haims' work on its driveway and main trails as a way to literally warm up the woods for trees and viewers alike.

*Cold Comfort* is a featured exhibit of **FiberPhiladelphia 2012**, an international biennial and regional festival for innovative fiber/textile art.

**The Artist**

Ms. Haims explores recycled, reclaimed and rescued materials—primarily fabrics and yarn—and creates large scale crocheted and knitted works mixed with found objects. She is an active member of the 3rd Street Gallery, a cooperative gallery in Old City. She is the social media coordinator for FiberPhiladelphia 2012, a city-wide biennial celebrating all things fiber. Additionally, she teaches children and young adults traditional handwork methods, such as knit and crochet, for the Handwork Studio of Narberth.

## Opening Reception

The opening reception for *Cold Comfort* will be held on **Saturday, March 10** at the Schuylkill Center's visitor center, in conjunction with ***Knitty Gritty Day***. The public is invited to celebrate the fiber arts with fun knit and crochet workshops for all ages from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, followed by an artist reception and tour of *Cold Comfort* from 3:00 - 4:00 pm. Haims will lead a fiber workshop for all ages.

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Founded in 1965, the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE) is one of the first urban environmental education centers in the country. It encompasses over 340 acres of privately held land in the Roxborough neighborhood of Philadelphia. SCEE's mission is to promote the preservation and improvement of our natural environment through education, outreach and the conservation of its land.

**What:** *Cold Comfort, Knit Graffiti by Melissa Maddonna Haims*

**When:** February 24 – April 30, 2012

**Where:** Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education

8480 Hagy's Mill Road

Philadelphia, PA 19128

For more information, high-resolution images or an interview with the artist, please contact: Naomi Leach, 215.482.7300 x 118, [naomi@schuylkillcenter.org](mailto:naomi@schuylkillcenter.org); [www.schuylkillcenter.org](http://www.schuylkillcenter.org).

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