

# Exposure

## Arc 2000, France

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
SIMON BECK  
**SNOW ARTIST**  
SIMON BECK  
**WORDS**  
LOUISE HALL

**E**thereal emptiness. Epic skies. Bright light. Vast snowscapes. It's not hard to see why frozen, snow-covered mountain lakes are a blank canvas for pioneering British snow artist Simon Beck, who uses snow as his medium and snow shoes as his tool.

A former Oxford University engineering graduate and orienteering cartographer, Beck, 60, from Somerset, first started making snow works 14 years ago 'for fun', as they combine his passion for outdoor walking with his mapping skills. "When you have a blank piece of paper you draw on it, so as a cartographer, using my feet to 'draw' on a blank snowfall seemed like a natural thing to do," he explains. Looking down from the ski lift the next day, he was impressed; Beck's 'snow drawing' was born.

"This work, 'Peace, Marlou 40', is a big peace symbol," he explains. "I created it on Lac Marlou in Arc 2000 on 20 January 2017, the day of Trump's inauguration."

His 40th work on Lac Marlou – 250th in total – is reminiscent of a snowflake, but the edge is made entirely of different sized circles (as opposed to straight lines), each of which is made by using a rope anchored at the centre, as if a giant compass. "The 'shading technique' is created by walking, by starting at the edge of the circle and working towards the middle," Beck adds.

Today Beck is the world no.1 'snow artist'. He produces around 30 large-scale works annually in the northern hemisphere, mostly in the Alps. His aim? "To complete 1000 drawings by the age of 80."

[facebook.com/snowart8848](https://www.facebook.com/snowart8848)

