

Frozen water provides
the raw material for this
sculptor's art

axel reinhard böhme

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Konstanz-based interior decorator Axel Reinhard Böhme creates luminous white installations with ice, that almost resemble marble structures. Axel saws sections from the frozen mass of Bodensee to create sparkling artworks which are iridescent in the sunlight. It's often only a pair of spruce needles, stones, feathers, pollen, shiny red

1. When the sea off Reichenau begins to freeze, Axel creates astonishing geometric sculptures with the ice. He adds finishing touches to them with packed snow **2.** Axel simply couldn't resist creating an artwork with this naked bush. He spiked the shorn branches with snowballs



decor **PROFILE**

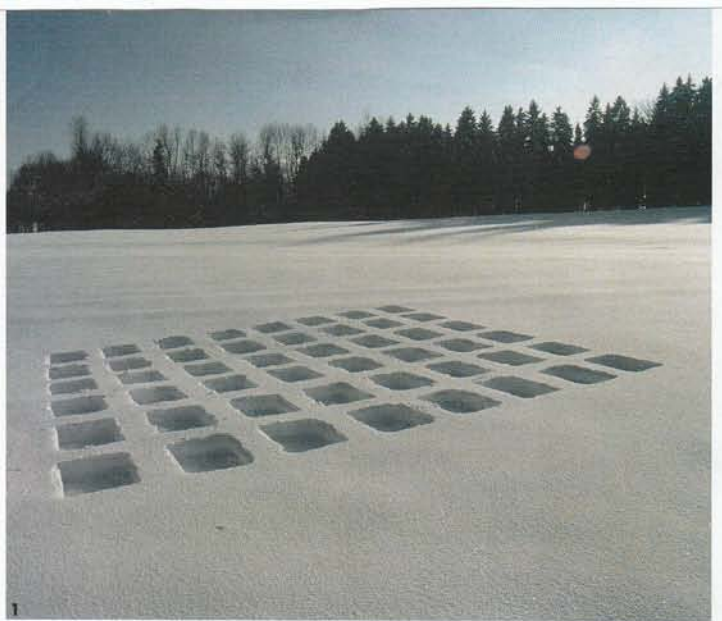
berries or fresh rose petals that inspire him. "When one sees things in unusual positions and in a different context, it changes one's whole milieu. And with it, the perception of the objects," says Axel, who excels in the Land-Art tradition. Fascinated by the work of Andy Goldsworthy, Axel strives to integrate the study of nature into his designs. "I can remember how once, through the entire night, I had brooded over a flight of steps that the wind would set swinging and ringing."

Since 1996, he has been creating unusual structures from diverse natural materials, contrasting with the existing order of things, thus presenting the world from a new perspective. Since he finds unusual natural objects in places where no one expects them to be, most of his works are created without any forethought. The reactions of viewers to his artworks is diverse: "Some amble past a two-metre long ice sculpture without sparing it a second glance," says Axel. His wife, interestingly, systematically dismantles his laboriously crafted precarious stone towers on the banks of the Bodensee. "She has to have order in her world."

About his art, Axel remarks: "It is difficult to classify things that lie outside the norm." However, he also believes that everything that becomes a standard evolves into being so only with the passage of time. He is aware the structures are ephemeral and may not survive long. For him, however, it is sufficient that they would live in people's minds and through his photographs. ♦

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1. The scooped out cubes of ice from the grid capture the shadows, as the sun makes its way across the sky, suggesting the fleetingness of the moment **2.** The doorway to heaven **3.** The idea came to Axel during a walk. To eliminate his own footprints, he balanced himself with the help of the long branches of a tree



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