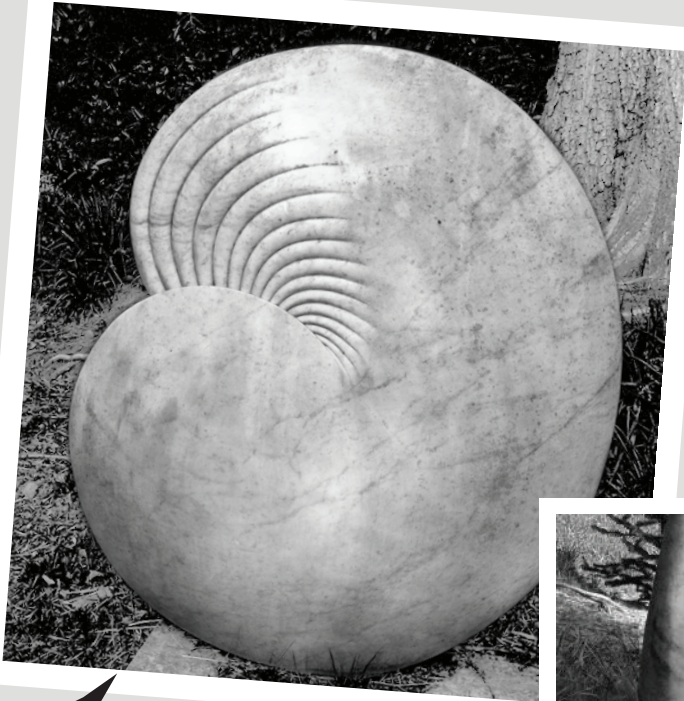


# SIMON THOMAS



*Moonbean*  
by Simon Thomas (1990)

Simon Thomas was born in 1960.  
He went to Art College in Portsmouth and the Royal College of Art to study sculpture.

Mathematics plays an important role in his work and he tries to reflect this through his sculpture. He is particularly interested in geometric patterns, along with forms and divisions of space in nature.



He has been artist in residence within the physics and mathematics departments at numerous universities.

Thomas claims he wasn't very good at maths at school because he missed some important bits.

However, it now plays a very important part of his work which is reflected through his sculpture.

White marble is an ideal material for sculpture because it is quite soft compared to many other types of stone and doesn't shatter as easily.

Marble also reflects the light in such a way that the marble appears to glow.

*Moonbean* is carved from Carrera Marble from Italy.

Before carving *Moonbean*, Thomas made a maquette out of plaster.

This helped him imagine his ideas and test the shape without taking up too much time or effort.

Because the sculpture was a commission, the maquette also allowed the client to see what the sculpture would look like, and how it would fit into the surroundings.

Simon Thomas makes sculpture in all different materials: wire, cement, sandstone, stainless steel, marble, wood and lots of other media.

His interest in sculpture lies not with the medium used, but in the concept.



MAP REF

Simon Thomas does not specialise in one type of material for his sculpture. Instead, his work reflects his interest in Mathematics.

## DISCUSS

What area of interest could you develop as a theme for your own sculptures?

How could you work with different materials to reflect specific aspects of work?

Simon Thomas' work reflects both art (through his creations) and sciences (through his subject matter). He has been artist in residence in both maths and physics departments.

## THINK

Maths and physics depend on a specific solution.

Creativity does not have a right answer.

Why do you think this is?

Look closely at *Moonbean*.  
Create an accurate line drawing paying attention to the proportions of the sculpture.

Find an interesting position and use shading to create an accurate representation of *Moonbean*.  
Develop your techniques to create the qualities of the marble.