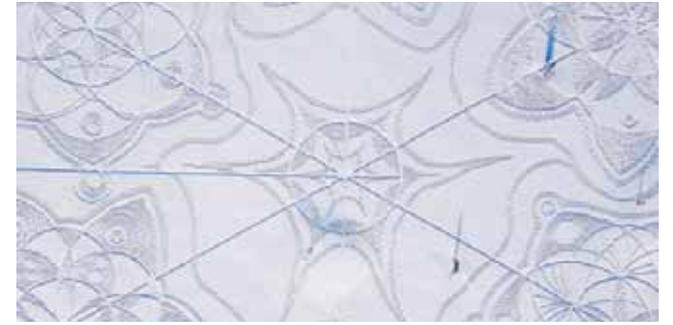




Aerial photographs show snow drawings made entirely of footprints on a golf course outside the Finnish capital Helsinki, in Espoo. — AFP photos



## Flurry of interest for Finnish snow art work

At ground level it looks like a mess of footprints across a snowy golf course, but from above, a stunningly intricate piece of snow art comes into view. Measuring 160 metres across, it is believed to be the Nordic country's largest snow work, and has seen creator Janne Pyykko deluged with interest and media requests since he led a team of 12 volunteers to tread out the design at the weekend. "It was a social challenge for me to explain everything and keep everybody enthusiastic about the project," the IT consultant told AFP, "and it worked!"

Inspired to "create something beautiful" in the 30 centimeter (nearly 12 inch) deep snow, Pyykko designed a geometric image made up of interlocking circles on his computer, and recruited collaborators from a Finnish snowshoeing Facebook group. The group followed a printed-out map and used ropes to trace out perfect circles in a pattern reminiscent of needlepoint on a snow-covered driving range in Espoo, on the outskirts of the capital Helsinki. "We spent three hours laughing together and walking," volunteer Elena Ceccarelli told AFP in the minus 10 degrees Cel-

sus (14 degrees Fahrenheit) sunshine.

"Any more than that and it would have started to get cold, but Janne was very good with the timing," she added. "While we were doing this it was very hard to understand what this art will look like," snowshoeing enthusiast Petri Teralainen told AFP. "So it was great to see the picture from above, it was perfect." Pyykko says he has further projects in mind, though "a bit smaller, perhaps". "But because people are now so enthusiastic, I think there will be new snow drawings in the coming weeks." —AFP

## Kim Kardashian robber won't benefit from book

Yunice Abbas, awaiting trial for the robbery of US reality star Kim Kardashian in Paris four years ago, will not benefit financially from the book he has published about the heist, lawyers said Wednesday. The lawyers, Henri de Beauregard and Mohand Ouidja, said they had on Tuesday obtained a court order "authorising the seizure of rights" on the sales of his book entitled "I Kidnapped Kim Kardashian" which was published at the beginning of the month. They represent the night watchman at the luxury residence Kardashian rented while she attended Paris Fashion Week in 2016.

Abbas, who calls himself a "part-time crook," was one of 12 people arrested for nabbing a small fortune in jewels after surprising Kardashian in the rented apartment. As his book's title makes clear Abbas, 67, has no plans to contest the charges at a trial prosecutors are hoping will begin this year. It was the biggest robbery of an individual in France in two decades, with the thieves making off with a combined haul worth about nine million euros (\$10.8 million). Most of the pieces were never found: police have recovered only a diamond-encrusted cross that



Yunice Abbas, one of five men who robbed US media personality Kim Kardashian at her hotel in Paris poses during a photo session for the release of his book in Paris. — AFP

Abbas dropped while leaving the scene by bike.

He was one of five men aged 60 to 72 — dubbed the "Grandpa robbers" in the press—who entered Kardashian's apartment at around 2:30 am on the night of October 3, 2016. The star later told police the men, at least one of whom was wearing a jacket with police insignia, tied her up with plastic cables and adhesive tape, and placed her in the bathtub. In his book, Abbas gives the details of what he describes as a perfectly executed crime. The night guard's lawyers said that "our client considers this communication campaign indecent. He maintains that the individuals who attacked him that evening were not peaceful 'grandpa robbers', but determined and armed criminals". —AFP

## Pandemic-hit Oscars to be broadcast from 'multiple locations'

This year's Oscars will be broadcast live and "in-person" from multiple locations, the Academy said Wednesday, as details of Hollywood's pandemic-delayed big night finally begin to take shape. The Academy Awards in recent decades have taken place at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, but with the United States' second largest city still under Covid-19 restrictions, the ceremony is "adapting to the requirements of the pandemic," said a spokesperson. "To create the in-person show our global audience wants to see... the ceremony will broadcast live from multiple locations, including the landmark Dolby Theatre," they said in a statement to AFP.

The 93rd Academy Awards will be "an Oscars like none other, while prioritizing the public health and safety of all those who will participate," the spokesperson added. No further new details were offered on the ceremony, which caps Hollywood's lengthy award season. It is not the first time the Oscars will take place at multiple locations. As far back as 1953 — the first time the ceremony was televised — proceedings were split between Los Angeles and New York. This year, other award shows are already experimenting with multiple locations including this month's Golden

Globes. The Globes will see a "first-ever bi-coastal telecast" in which Tina Fey hosts from New York's Rainbow Room and Amy Poehler from the Beverly Hilton in Los Angeles, organizers said. Television's Emmys in September were broadcast from a near-empty Los Angeles theater, with nominees and winners dialing in from their homes and socially distanced gatherings via video call. — AFP



In this file photo an Oscar statue watches over the 91st Oscars Nominees Luncheon at the Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills. — AFP