

Pre-Visit Guide: *The Imaginative Worlds of M.C. Escher*

Big Ideas & Major Themes

Here's some information relating to your program to review with your students before experiencing *The Imaginative Worlds of M.C. Escher*.

- M.C. Escher's artwork demonstrated that complex mathematical concepts can be expressed visually.
- Escher took inspiration from the natural world as well as mathematics but brought a unique perspective to these subjects, expressing them in imaginative, or sometimes even impossible, ways.
- Escher used variations in value as well as linear perspective to attempt to portray three-dimensionality in 2D works of art.

SC Standards Addressed

Visual Art CR.AL.1; R.IL.5.1;
R.IM.5.1; R.AL.5.2; R.AM.5.2;
C.AM.6; C.AH.7.1

Mathematics 7.GM.1; 8.GM.1;
8.GM.2; 8.GM.3; GCO.2; GCO.3;
GCO.4; GCO.5; GCO.11



Details of work by M.C. Escher

In the Classroom

Prepare students for your visit with one or more of these activities.

- Explore some examples of Islamic architecture, particularly [geometric tile work](#). Ask students to point out patterns that they see and note what transformations they can identify (e.g. rotations, reflections).
- Ask students to examine a particular scene from various vantage points. With cameras or phones, take pictures of the same scene but from different angles (e.g. up high, eye level, ground level) and compare them. If possible print or upload the images and identify the horizon line and vanishing point.
- Have students research impossible shapes and challenge them to create their own photographs of impossible objects using simple materials like Legos or blocks.

Resources

Want to explore more? Review these references to learn and share information with your students.

- How Did Escher Make His Prints [National Gallery of Australia] <https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/custom/screens/escher-printmaking/index.html>
- The Worlds of M.C. Escher Slideshow [NCMA] <https://ncartmuseum.org/exhibitions/view/11364>
- Escher Gallery – Mathematical [Escher Foundation] <https://mcescher.com/gallery/mathematical/>
- The Magical World of M.C. Escher Study Guide [Museum of Art Deland] https://issuu.com/moartdeland/docs/m._c._escher_studycomplete?e=14075992/77292933

Museum Manners

School tours are limited to very small groups at the moment. Contact the CMA to see whether your group is better suited for an in-person or virtual experience. Please review these guidelines with your students before your visit to the museum.

- Touching can permanently damage works of art. Please don't touch the art or lean on the walls.
- Food, drinks, gum, pens, and large bags are not permitted in the galleries.
- Watch where you walk! Try to stay at least an arms-length from works of art.

Questions? Contact us at 803-343-2163 or email tours@columbiamuseum.org

columbiamuseum.org/learn

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