

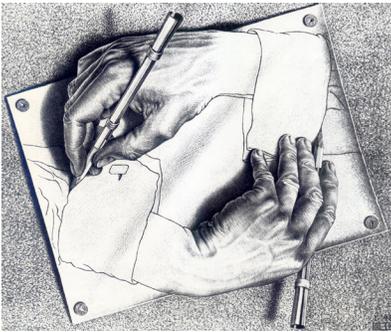
## EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

- Title:** M. C. ESCHER: REALITY AND ILLUSIONS
- When:** November 13, 2016–January 29, 2017
- Description:** The most iconic works by Dutch artist M. C. Escher, including a pair of hands drawing themselves and fish morphing into birds, are familiar to most people. This exhibition of more than 100 woodcuts, lithographs, mezzotints and drawings takes us deeper into both the literal and impossible worlds he created over a career that spanned five decades. Drawn from the world’s second-largest private collection of Escher’s work, *Reality and Illusion* includes early figure drawings, lesser-known book illustrations, detailed Italian landscapes, the “tessellations” for which he became famous, and several examples of his signature architectural fantasies in which stairways seem to circle back upon themselves or go nowhere.
- Programs/events:** These include a members’ preview party (November 12), an inservice for educators (November 16), a lecture by mathematician Doris Schattschneider (November 20), a series of docent-led tours, and several related Creative Workshop classes for children and adults. *For more information, see attached release.*
- Hours:** Wednesday–Sunday 11 am to 5 pm and until 9 pm on Thursdays; closing at 3 pm on Saturday, December 24. Open special holiday hours Tuesday, December 27, 11 am–5 pm. Closed Mondays, all other Tuesdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas and New Year’s Day. Open until 9 pm on the first Friday of each month as part of a city-wide gallery night.
- Admission:** General admission \$14; senior citizens, \$10; college students with ID and children 6–18, \$5. All paid admissions Thursdays 5–9 pm are half price. Always free to members; UR faculty, staff and students; and children 5 and under. Friday, December 23–Saturday, December 31, kids 18 & under are free with adult admission.
- Exhibition sponsors:** From the collection of the Herakleidon Museum, Athens, Greece  
One Source Traveling Exhibition organized by PAN Art Connections, Inc.
- Sponsored in Rochester by the Gallery Council of MAG, with additional support provided by Roger and Carolyn Friedlander, Dr. Dawn F. Lipson, Andy and Karen Gallina, the John D. Green Endowment for Contemporary Exhibitions, the Robert Lehman Foundation, the Rubens Family Foundation, the Robert L. and Mary L. Sproull Fund, Ron and Cathy Paprocki, Jim Moore and two anonymous donors.



November 10, 2016

## NEW MAG EXHIBITION EXPLORES ICONIC WORKS BY M. C. ESCHER



ROCHESTER, NY — A major exhibition of more than 100 works by iconic Dutch artist M. C. Escher opens November 13, 2016 at the Memorial Art Gallery.

Drawn from the world's second-largest private collection of Escher's work, *Reality and Illusion* includes early figure drawings, lesser-known book illustrations, detailed Italian landscapes, the "tessellations" for which he became famous, and several examples of his signature architectural fantasies in which stairways seem to go both up and down. The most iconic of these works, including a pair of hands drawing themselves (pictured at left) and fish morphing into birds, are familiar to most people.

This exhibition of woodcuts, lithographs, mezzotints and drawings takes us deeper into both the literal and impossible worlds that Escher (1898–1972) created over a career that spanned five decades. It is one of the largest and most comprehensive retrospectives of the artist's work ever offered in the United States.

The exhibition features early, little-known works, as well as Escher's explorations into tessellation, infinity and depth. It also includes *Metamorphosis* (1939-40), an enormous woodcut 13½ feet in length; the exceptionally rendered *Italian Landscapes*, which inspired Escher's series of *Impossible Worlds*, also on view; and two of the artist's most popular and recognizable works, *Waterfall* (1961) and *Relativity* (1953).

*M. C. Escher: Reality and Illusion* remains on view through January 29, 2017.

### Exhibition sponsors

*M. C. Escher: Reality and Illusion* is sponsored in Rochester by the Gallery Council of MAG, with additional support provided by Roger and Carolyn Friedlander, Dr. Dawn F. Lipson, Andy and Karen Gallina, the John D. Green Endowment for Contemporary Exhibitions, the Robert Lehman Foundation, the Rubens Family Foundation, the Robert L. and Mary L. Sproull Fund, Ron and Cathy Paprocki, Jim Moore and two anonymous donors.

### Programs and events

These include a members' preview party (November 12), an inservice for educators (November 16), a lecture by mathematician Doris Schattschneider (November 20), a series of docent-led tours and several related Creative Workshop classes for children and adults. *For more information, see attached release.*

### National tour

*M. C. Escher: Reality and Illusion* is in the midst of a national tour. Most recently, it was at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, NH. From MAG it travels to Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, WI.

### Press contact

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PICTURED: M. C. Escher, *Drawing Hands* © 2016 The M.C. Escher Company–The Netherlands. All rights reserved. MCESCHER.COM

## M. C. ESCHER

*Only those who attempt the absurd will achieve the impossible.* — M. C. Escher



M. C. Escher (1898-1972) was born in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands, the fourth and youngest son of a civil engineer. After five years the family moved to Arnhem where Escher spent most of his youth.

After failing his high school exams, Maurits enrolled in the School for Architecture and Decorative Arts in Haarlem. After only one week, he informed his father that with the encouragement of one of his teachers he wished to study graphic art instead of architecture.

After finishing school, Escher traveled throughout southern Europe drawing landscapes, but it was his visit to the Alhambra Palace in Granada, Spain in 1922, and a return to Granada and Cordoba in 1936, that would prove transformative. Inspired by the complex designs of Moorish architecture, Escher would further focus his work on tessellation and repeating patterns, often featuring overlapping, interlocked images morphing into something else.

Following his marriage to Jetta Umiker in 1924, Escher established a home in Rome for his family, which would include three children. During these years, he worked on engravings and prints that captured natural landscapes and architecture and played with perspective, orientation and shadow. He also created more human-oriented work, including a 1925 rendering of his wife and several self-portraits.

With the rise of fascism in Italy, the Escher moved to Switzerland and later Belgium, but with the invasion of Nazi forces, they left for the Netherlands in 1941.

There, Escher continued to create eye-opening dreamscape work such as *Drawing Hands* (1948), *Relativity* (1953) and *Ascending and Descending* (1960). In addition to becoming a celebrated artist with whose work was the subject of international exhibitions, Escher was soon embraced by mathematicians and scientists, as much of his output embodied or explored concepts of geometry, logic, space and infinity.

“It is...a pleasure knowingly to mix up two- and three-dimensionalities...to make fun of gravity,” said Escher. “Are you really sure that a floor can’t also be a ceiling?”

M.C. Escher died in Laren, the Netherlands, leaving a legacy of 448 lithographs, woodcuts and wood engravings and more than 2000 drawings and sketches. Today, his art continues to amaze and wonder millions of people all over the world. Indeed he has achieved the status of a cultural icon, his work inspiring posters, neckties, LEGO® re-creations, even an episode of the hit TV show *The Simpsons*.

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November 10, 2016

## M.C. ESCHER: REALITY AND ILLUSION Programs and Events

### MEMBERS' OPENING PARTY

Saturday, November 12, 8 to 11 pm

Preview the exhibition at this MAG members' event featuring live music and entertainment. Enjoy:

- lecture by Paul Firos, whose collection of works by M. C. Escher is on view in *Reality and Illusion* (8:30 pm)
- Escher film (9:30 pm)
- Music by Jim E Leggs
- Breakthrough Entertainment DJ
- Live human art with Jason Ferguson
- Tessellation creations

Free to members. For more information call the membership office, 585.276.8939 or email [memberperks@mag.rochester.edu](mailto:memberperks@mag.rochester.edu).

### LECTURE: MATHEMATICS AND THE ART OF M. C. ESCHER

Sunday, November 20, 1 pm; included in MAG admission

Dr. Doris Schattschneider is the author of *M. C. Escher: Visions of Symmetry*. She holds a PhD in mathematics from Yale University and is professor emerita of mathematics at Moravian College, where she taught for 34 years. Her dual interest in geometry and art led naturally to the study of tiling problems and the work of M. C. Escher.

*This presentation is one of three lectures in the G. Milton Wing Lecture series, funded by a bequest from the late applied mathematician and UR alumnus, G. Milton Wing. It is sponsored by the University of Rochester's Department of Mathematics and the Memorial Art Gallery. Included in MAG admission.*

### ESPECIALLY FOR EDUCATORS

Wednesday, November 16, 4:30–7 pm; \$15\*

Explore *M. C. Escher: Reality and Illusion* through the eyes of artists and mathematicians. Experiment with the “finger exercises,” as Escher called his early realistic landscapes, and the “brain gymnastics” of his later more complex works. Math consultant Marcy DeJesus-Rueff and art teacher Julie Flisnik will share their ideas and lessons providing guidelines for touring the exhibit or developing classroom activities. (For Art, Math, Classroom: K-12.)

\*Registration and prepayment required; contact Chelsea Anderson at [cander35@mag.rochester.edu](mailto:cander35@mag.rochester.edu) or 585.276.8971.

### GUIDED EXHIBITION TOURS (included in MAG admission)

Sunday, November 13 (opening day), 1 and 3 pm / Sundays and Fridays, November 18–January 29, 1 pm

### CREATIVE WORKSHOP CLASSES

MAG's Creative Workshop will offer a series of classes exploring Escher's work. These include sessions of Family Sketch Hunters Club for ages 5 and up with adult (November 19 & January 14) and OK, It's Fabulous Art Project Time, for ages 7–10 (Saturday, January 21); Escher-themed beginning drawing classes; an Art Social (November 17), Drawing for Illustration (six-week evening class starting January 19); and Appreciating Printmaking (three-week midday art history class starting January 11).

For information, visit [mag.rochester.edu/creativeworkshop](http://mag.rochester.edu/creativeworkshop) or call 585-276-8959.

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