

Kids @ CAM – At Home Family Projects

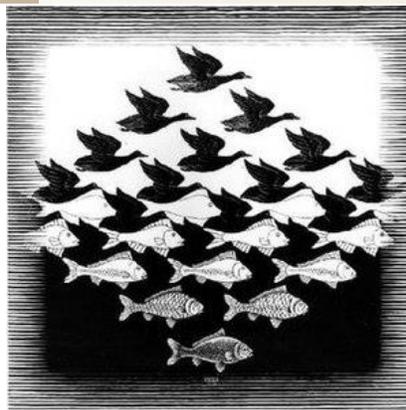
Spotlight on Art History

M.C. ESCHER

About the Artist:

"We adore chaos because we love to produce order." – M.C. Escher

Maurits Cornelis Escher (1898-1972) is one of the world's most famous graphic artists. He was best known for his detailed realistic prints that achieve bizarre optical and conceptual effects. He made mathematically inspired woodcuts, lithographs, and mezzotints. These are sometimes referred to as "impossible drawings", or drawings using multiple vanishing points. He also created many works that focused on tessellations. Tessellations are a special kind of design made from shapes that fit together perfectly. A checkerboard is an example of a simple tessellation. Other simple shapes, such as triangles, rectangles and diamonds, can fit together perfectly. Escher focused his work on tessellations and repeating patterns, often featuring overlapping, interlocked images morphing into something else. Escher used complex tessellations in his work that sometimes started as one form and became another.



ART AT HOME – TESSELLATION DESIGNS

What you'll need:

- Heavy Paper for the pattern
- Sheet of background paper
- Pencil and eraser
- Crayons/Markers/Colored Pencils
- Scissors
- Tape and a ruler

Take your time with this project and don't expect it to work out perfectly – tessellations can be tricky so relax and have fun with your design!

- Step 1 – Begin by drawing a square on your heavy paper, then cut it out.
- Step 2 – From the left side of your square, draw a triangle with the pencil. Take your pencil to the top left corner, draw a straight line towards the middle of your square. Stop that line, then draw another straight line connecting down to the bottom left corner of your square. This creates your triangle shape.
- Step 3 – Cut out the triangle, then tape in onto the right side of your square. This should transform your original square into something more similar to an arrow shape.
- Step 4 – Trace this new shape onto the heavy paper, then cut that out. This is now your sturdy tracing template.
- Step 5 – On your background paper, start tracing your new shape over and over until you fill up the sheet. Align each new tracing with the last one, so there's no space between the shapes and they are repeating side by side.
- Step 6 – If you want, place the same small design into each shape. You can do this to make the shapes look like something (eyes and a fin to make a school of fish) or simply a decorative pattern.
- Step 7 – Trace the outline of your shapes with a dark marker.
- Step 8 – Color each shape a different color – you can do a pattern with your colors (rotating the same two or three colors) or color each shape randomly.
- Step 9 - Help to clean up your work area.

Tips:

- When you begin to trace your shape side by side along the whole paper, begin at the top left and do one row across, then begin your second row directly beneath it. You can even hold a ruler beneath each row to make sure you stay consistent with your rows.

Questions to ask one another:

- What would you name this tessellation design?
- How many different things can you think of that your design shape looks like?

Follow Up Project Idea:

- Challenge yourself by making your initial design shape more complicated. Instead of cutting out one triangle and taping it to the other end, cut out a few different shapes and have fun experimenting with ways to make it work as a repeating tessellation!

