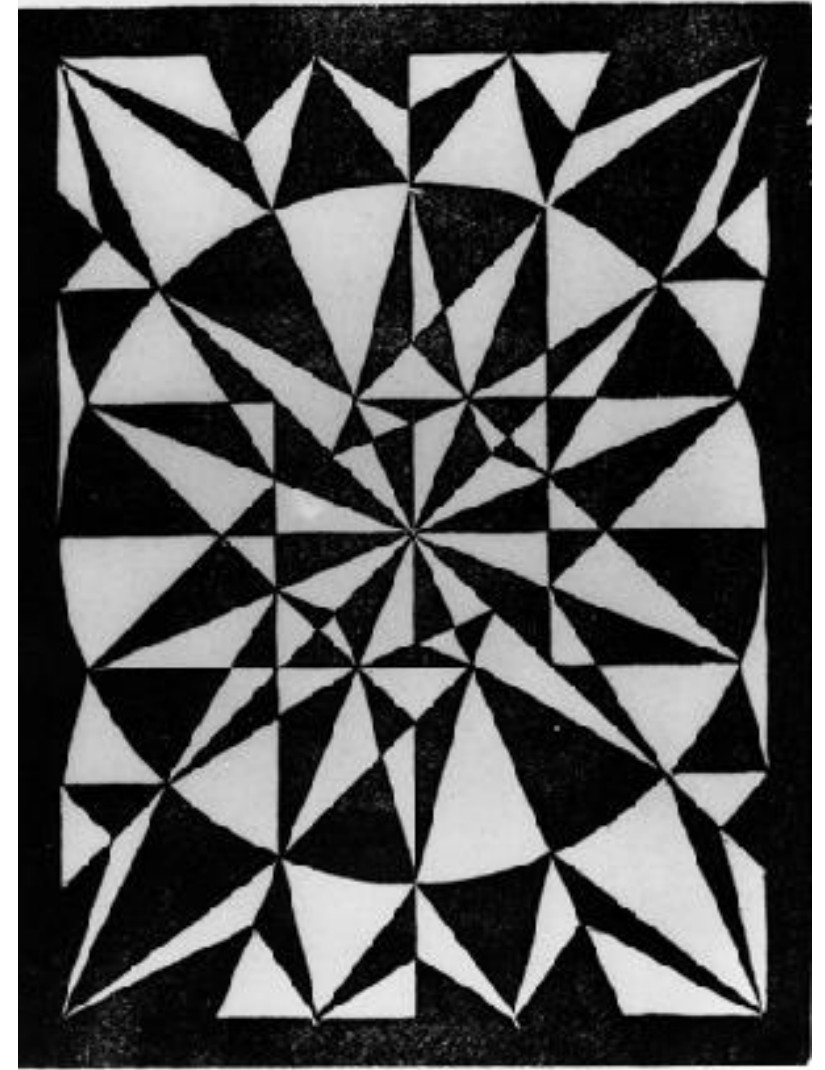# Shape

A two dimensional area

Escher uses flat, two dimensional triangles in his picture

Flor de Pascua – Beautiful (1921)

Mass

A solid form that occupies three-dimensional volume

The heart and cylinder-like figure depicts mass because they are 3D, multidimensional objects

The Heavy Heart (1937)

Foreshortening

When artists correct for the visual distortion that happens when we see objects from certain points of view

This picture by Escher embodies the technique of foreshortening because the hands are larger and closer to the sphere, creating the illusion of distance between them and the person

Spherical Self Portrait (1950)

Negative Space

Empty space, surrounded and shaped so that it acquires a sense of form or volume

The black space around the flower is negative space

Sunflowers (1918)

Negative Shapes

Negative shapes can be important based on how the positive shapes around them are positioned

The birds can be seen as positive and negative shapes/black and white colors

7 Black and 6 White Fishes (1954)

Detail and Focus

The closer the object, the more detail whereas the farther the object, the less detail

The people closer have more detailed faces and outlines while the front row of the audience are dots with no detail
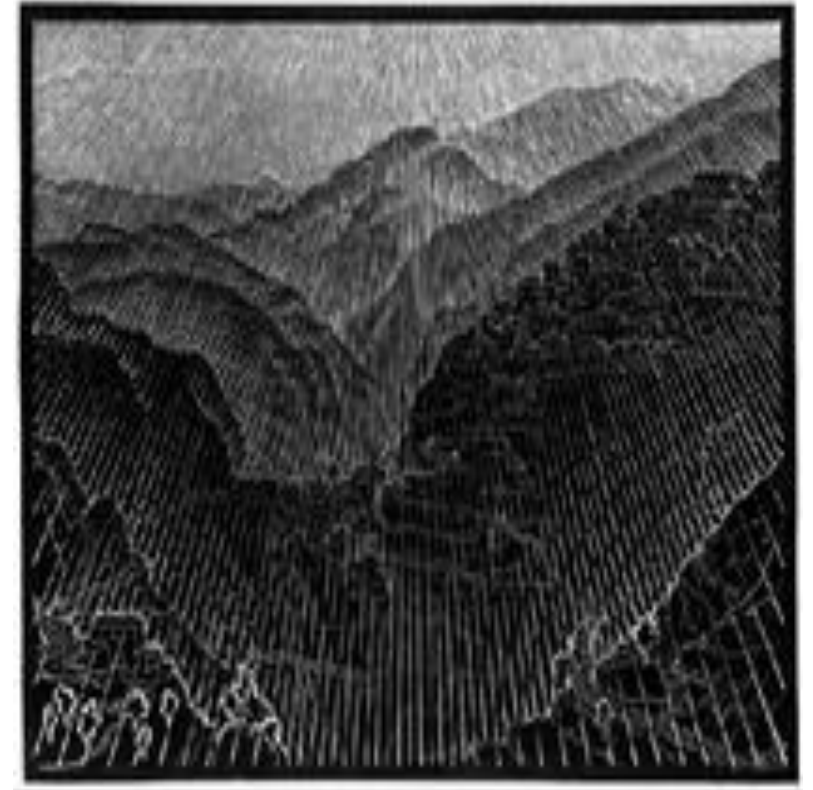

Wild West (1920)

Value and Color

Technique to create illusion of distance by the darker the color, the closer it is whereas the lighter the color, the farther away it is

The darker, more black mountains are closer and the lighter grey mountains are farther in the distance

Not Detected (1931)

Linear Perspective

When the lines receding into space appear to converge at a single point on the eye level

The railroad-like part of the picture converge at one point in the distance on the horizon

Not Detected (1931)

Overlapping

The placement of an object where one covers or obstructs another, creating an illusion of depth

One bell is overlapping, or obstructing the other making the obstructed bell seem farther away

Two Bells (1918)

Figure/Ground Reversal

Occurs in a design or image where the positive shapes and the negative shapes share equal visual importance

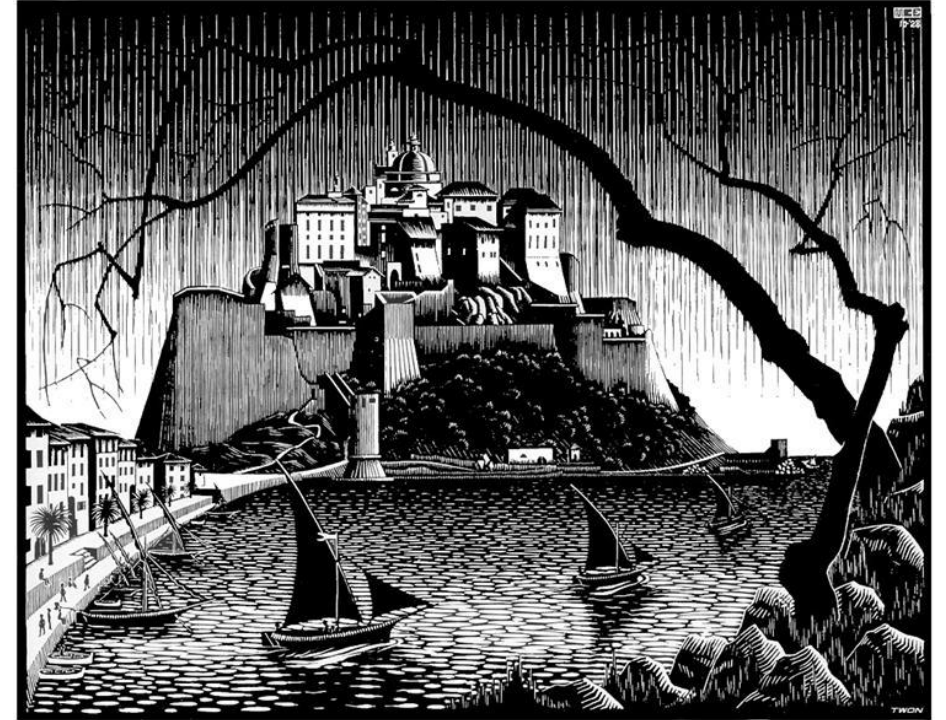Both the white and the red lizards have equal importance because they form each other

Lizard (1937)

Foreground, Middle Ground, Background

Segregated areas/locations of a picture to depict depth

The rocks are foreground, the water and the boat make up the middle ground, and the city is background

Citadel of Calvi Corsica (1928)

Vertical Placement

Technique to create the illusion of space between objects by having one object higher and one lower on the picture plane

The angel is higher on the picture plane than the bird and therefore has an illusion of space between them

Still Life (1943)