

Chapter 5: Space

Key Concepts -
As found in examples in works by MC Escher

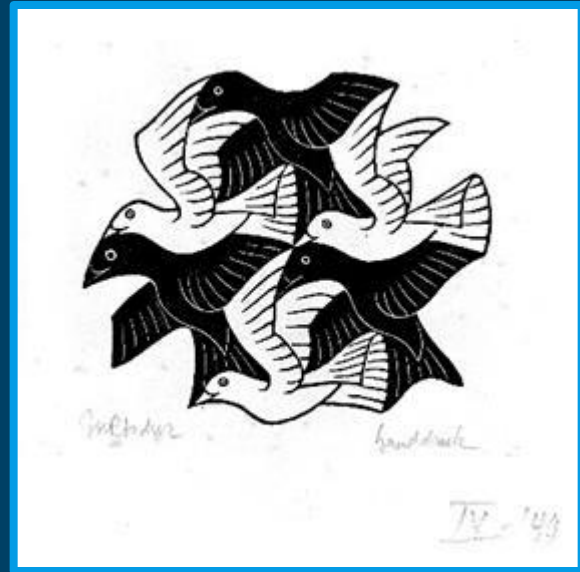


Prepared by Matthew Polzin
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Shape

A two-dimensional area

Shape is shown through the outlines of the white birds contrasted with the outlines of the black birds.



Plane Filling Motif with Birds - 1949

Negative Shape

The shape around or outside of positive shapes

Negative shapes are shown in the hills contrasted with the positive shape of the tree.

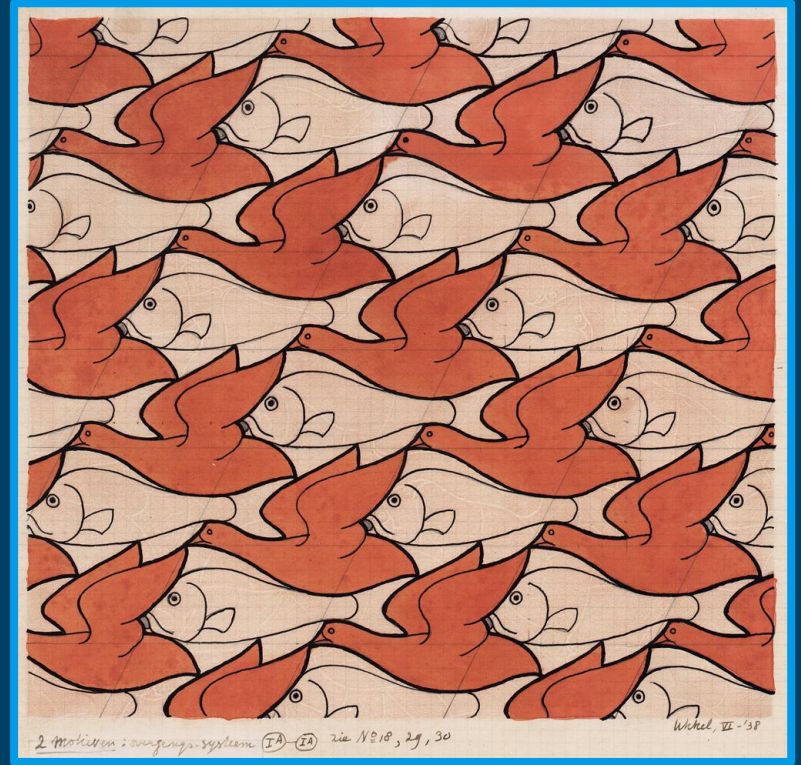


The Borger Oak - 1919

Figure/Ground Reversal

Both positive and negative
shapes share equal
importance

The shapes of the fish and birds
combined with the contrasting colors
make both shapes equally important
and prominent.



Bird Fish - 1938

Mass (or Form)

A three-dimensional area

Mass is shown here through angles and differing values, as well as the people filling some of the empty areas.

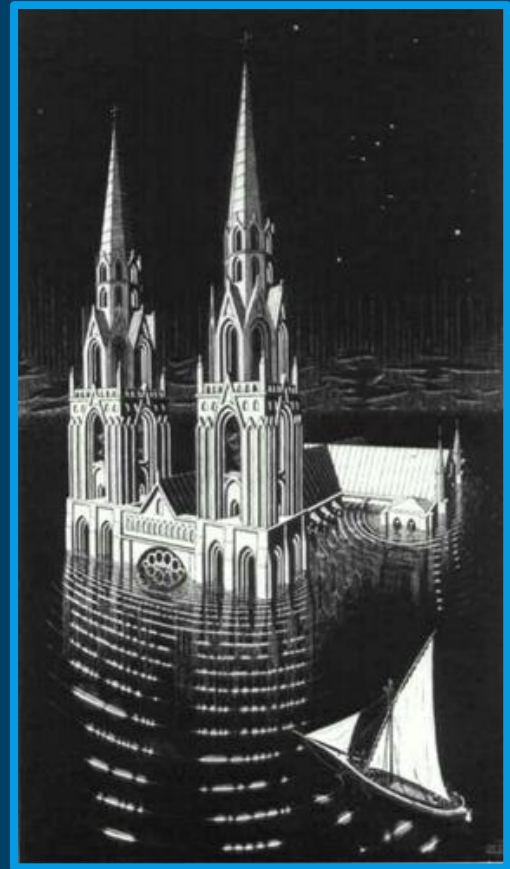


Kairouan Tunisia - 1928

Negative Space

The space around or outside of masses.

Negative space is created in the water and sky surrounding the cathedral and sailboat.

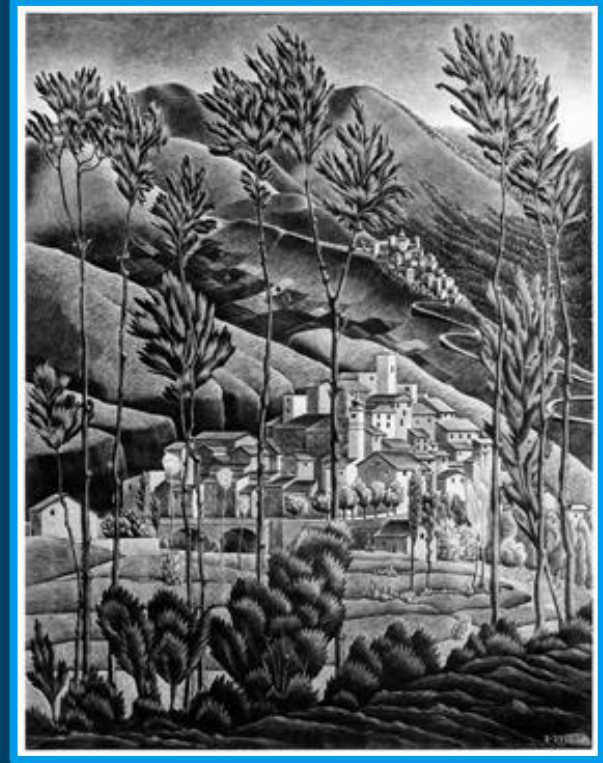


The Drowned Cathedral - 1929

Overlap

One object in front of another
creates illusion of space

The trees in the foreground overlap
the city, making them seem closer.
The city also overlaps the hills,
further creating space.

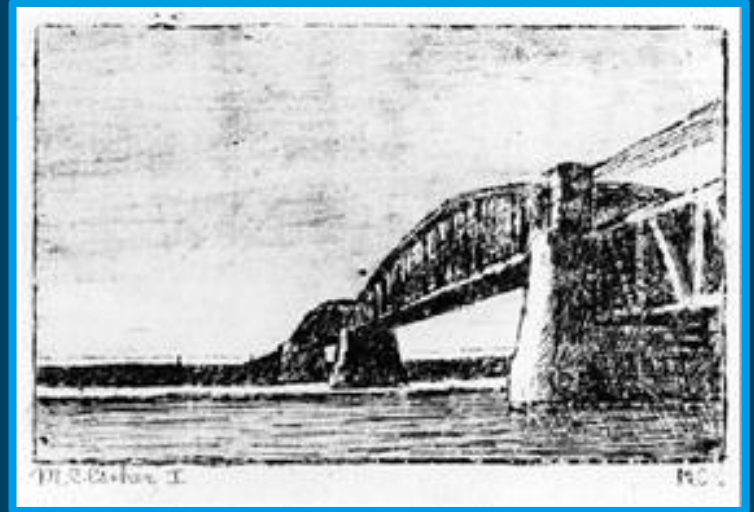


Alfedena Abruzzi - 1929

Linear Perspective

Invisible lines that all converge at vanishing point(s)

The bottom and top of the bridge and the ends of the bridge supports form lines that converge at a vanishing point on the horizon.

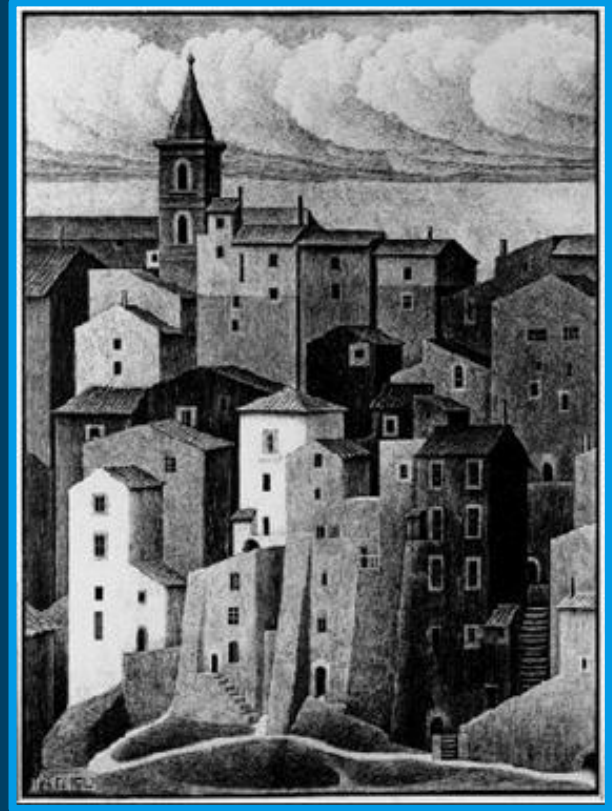


Railway Bridge, Oosterbeek - 1917

Oblique Projection

All sides of objects remain
parallel to one another

The fronts of all buildings are parallel
to the picture plane, and the sides of
the structures and their pieces are all
parallel to each other.



Unnamed - 1929

Foreshortening

One part of the image is distorted to make that part seem closer or more natural

The hands are much larger than normal, giving the illusion that they are closer to the sphere.

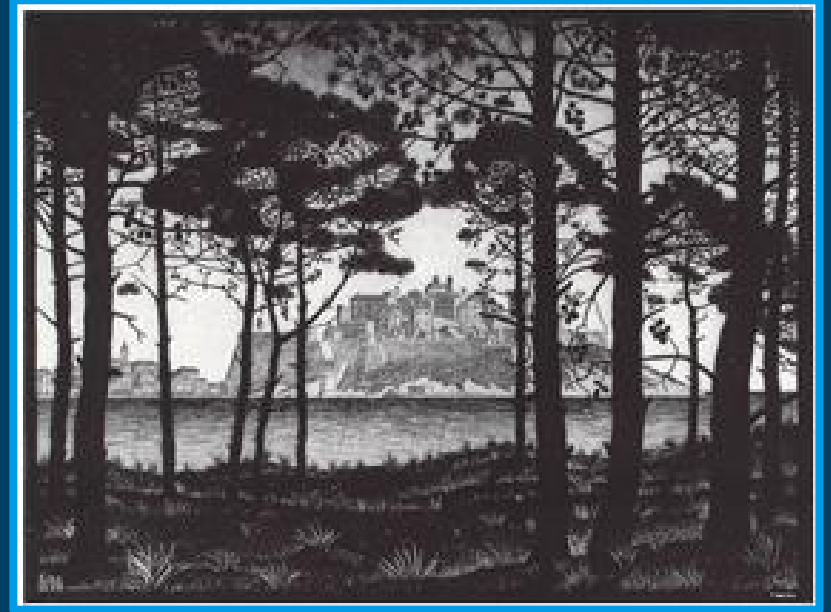


Spherical Self Portrait - 1950

Foreground, Middle Ground, Background

Three areas of created space to help define locations of objects and their details

The more detailed trees and grassy land take the foreground. The water falls within the middle ground. The more rocky land and buildings take up the background.



Pineta of Calvi Corsica - 1933