



Foreshortening Selfie

Key Concepts in the Works of M.C. Escher

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Shape

A two-dimensional area

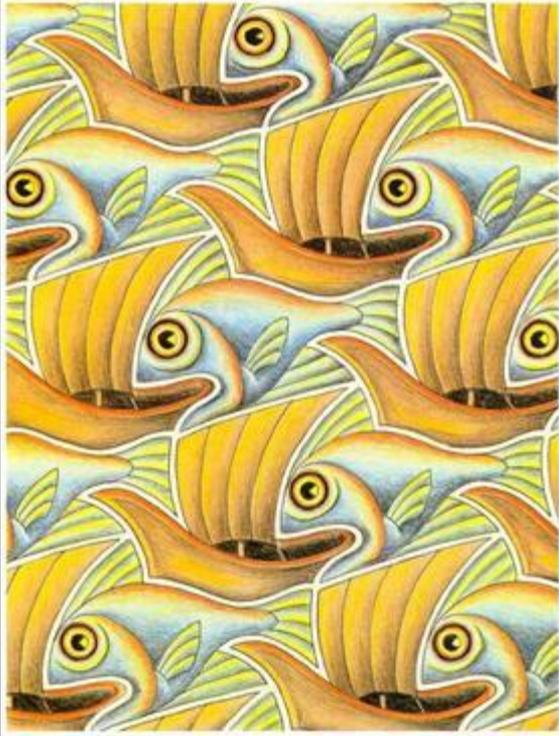
Escher uses shape in this work by creating jagged shapes with sharp corners and defined edges to depict a parrot on a perch.

Parrot - 1919



Negative Shape

The shapes formed by the space around positive shapes



Fish and Boat - unknown date

Escher cleverly made this artwork so that the space around each fish forms boats, or, from another point of view, the space around the boats forms fish.

Figure/Ground Reversal

A visual illusion where, from different perspectives, either the positive or the negative shape are the focus of the work

In this sketch, either the dark figures or the white figures can draw the focus of the viewer.



Mosaic II - 1957

Mass and Form

A three dimensional solid that takes up space and has volume and density can be called a mass or a form



Three Spheres II - 1946

In this drawing, Escher depicts three solid spheres by drawing detailed reflections and shadows on the shapes. The shadows, shading, and realism helps to convince the viewer of the spherical solids' presence.

Negative Space

Similar to negative shape, negative space is the space around a 3D object

The space in between the strips of the faces actually help to define the shape and form of the heads, although it is depicted as empty space.

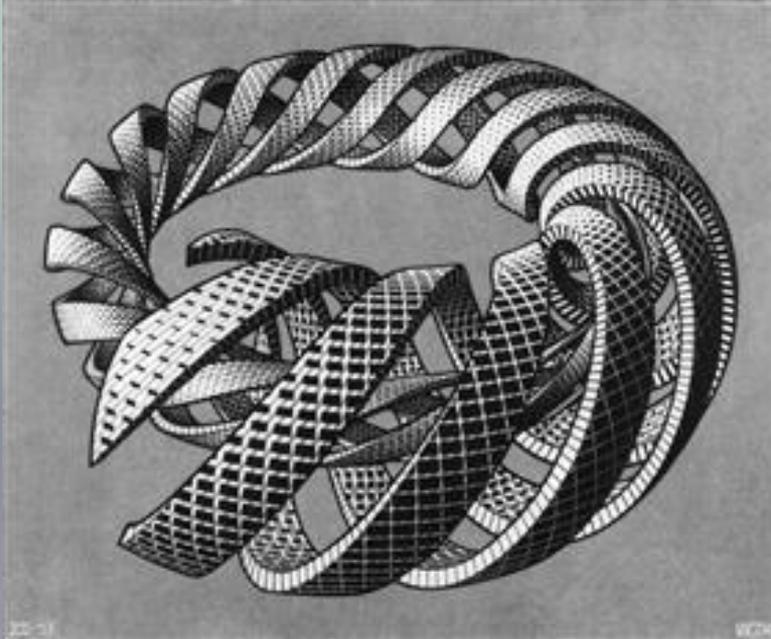


Bond of Union - 1956

Overlap

When one object covers up or obscures another object, making it seem like one is in front of the other

Spirals - 1953

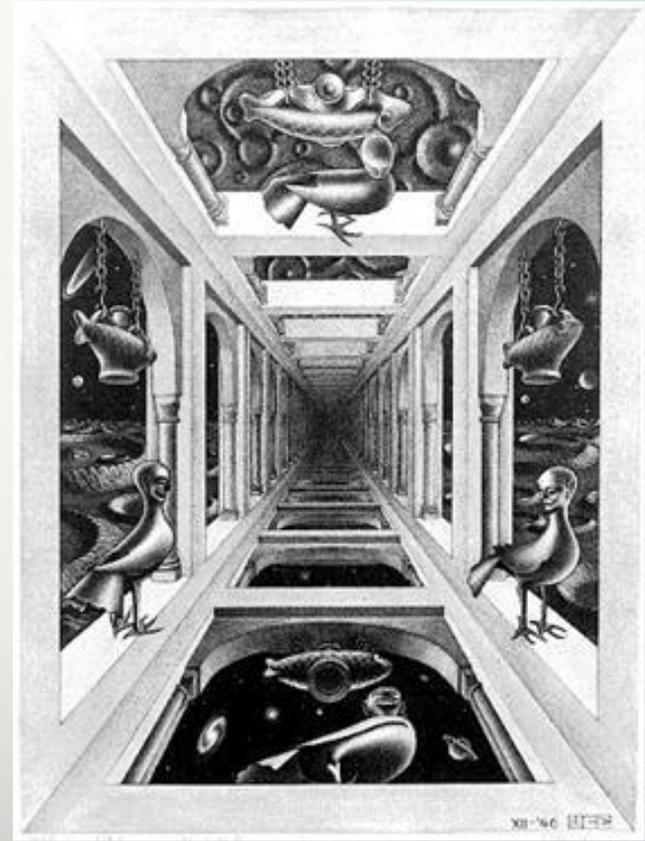


The larger end of the spiral overlaps the smaller one in such a way that it seems the smaller one is inside the larger

Linear Perspective

The use of straight lines converging on different points on the horizon to depict space

Escher draws the long gallery so that its edges converge on one point in the distance, on an invisible horizon. This creates the illusion of space.



Gallery - 1946

Oblique Projection

A technique that depicts 3D objects and space using angles



Waterfall - unknown date

The direction of the waterfall path is parallel to itself as it continues, and the edges of the roofs of the structures below are also drawn at the same angle

Foreshortening

To depict an object as closer than it is by slightly exaggerating its size when viewed from certain angles

Escher's hand and arm in their reflection on the sphere are foreshortened both because of the distortion caused by the sphere's shape and because of the angle the viewer sees the reflection from. The hand and arm are not actually as short and as disproportional as they appear.



Hand With Reflecting Sphere - 1935

Foreground, Middle Ground, and Background

The three layers of a drawing where the differentiation of the grounds helps create an illusion of space

In this drawing, Escher draws the white, castle-like structure in the foreground, the mountains in the middle ground, and the background as a shaded sky.



Belvedere - 1958