

CHAPTER 5: SPACE

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



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Chapter 5: SPACE Key Concepts

Foreshortening

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

In this piece, the balcony is “closer” to the viewer so the viewer can focus specifically on the balcony.



Balcony - No date

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Foreshortening

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

In this piece, the hand appears “closer” to the viewer to make up for the distortions due to this unique point of view.



Hand With Reflecting Sphere -1935

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Linear Perspective

is a mathematical system for projecting the apparent dimensions of a three-dimensional object onto a flat surface, or the picture plane.

In this piece, there are drawn lines converging at a point on the horizon which demonstrates linear perspective nicely.



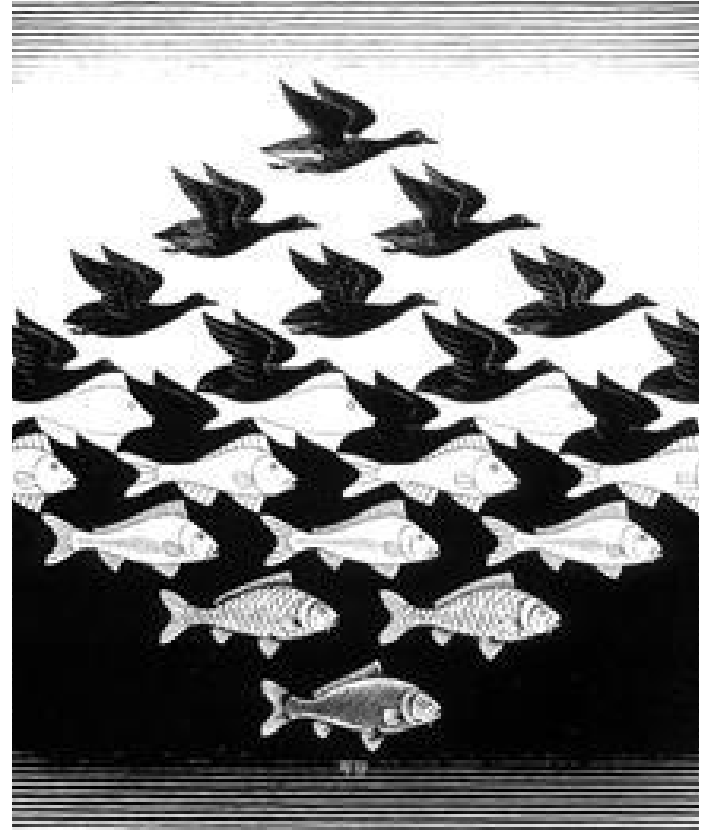
Gallery - 1946

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Negative Space

is when the space around a subject forms a shape, and such space occasionally is used to artistic effect as the "real" subject of an image.

In this piece, one shape can be seen as either a bird or a fish.



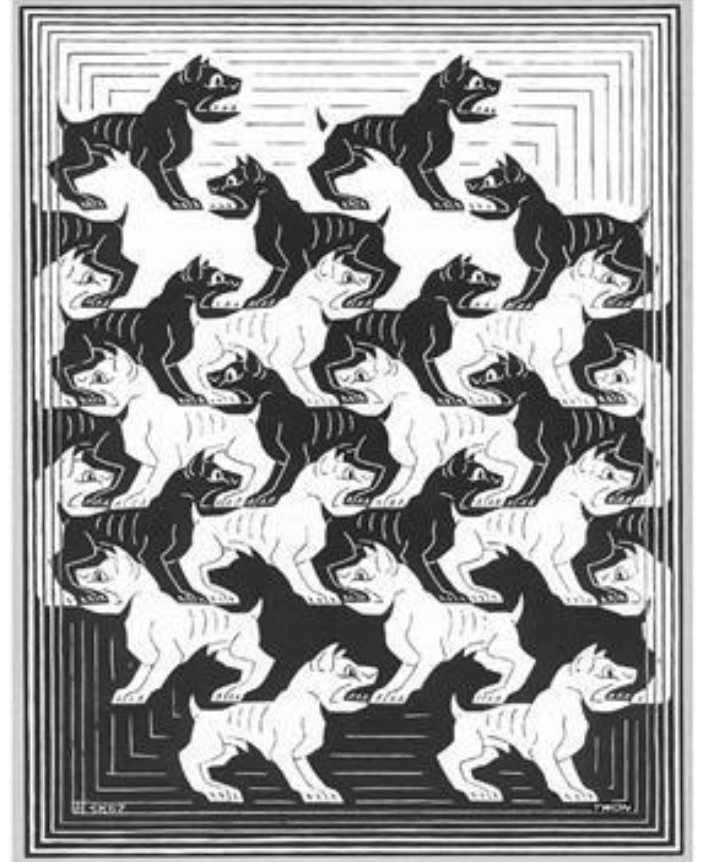
Sky and Water -1938

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Negative Shapes

are important shapes based on how the positive shapes around them are positioned. It's when the black and white colors make shapes.

In this piece, you can see dogs in both black and white colors creating some negative and positive shapes.



Regular Division Of The Plane IV - 1957

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Shape

A two-dimensional area

This piece is flat with no 3D look, but instead, a 2D look.



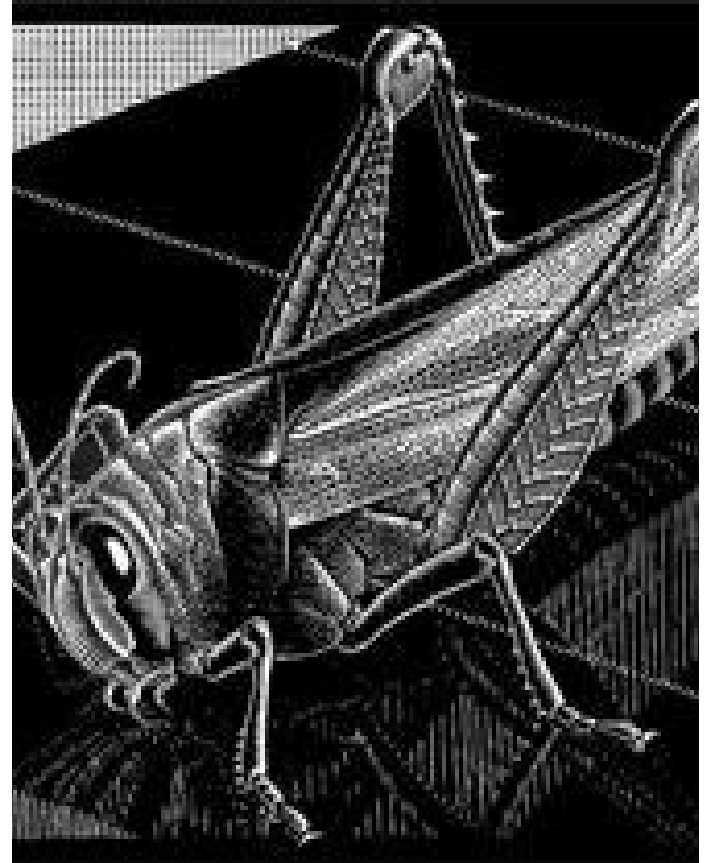
The Four Elements - Fire - 1952

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Mass and Form

a solid three-dimensional volume

By overlaps and grade - A shading, you believe these grasshopper looks like a 3D creature.



Grasshopper - 1935

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Oblique Projection

Is when the front of the object or building is parallel to the picture plane, and all the sides, which recede at an angle, remain parallel to each other.

Oblique Projection can be seen mostly in the waterfall section as it grows upwards. It's moving the water upwards to the top of the waterfall, but it doesn't look that way. Trippy...



Waterfall - no date

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Overlapping

Happens when one object is in front of another as a way to create depth and space.

You can tell the dragon's neck wraps around to bite his tail because the wings overlap a part of the dragon's neck.



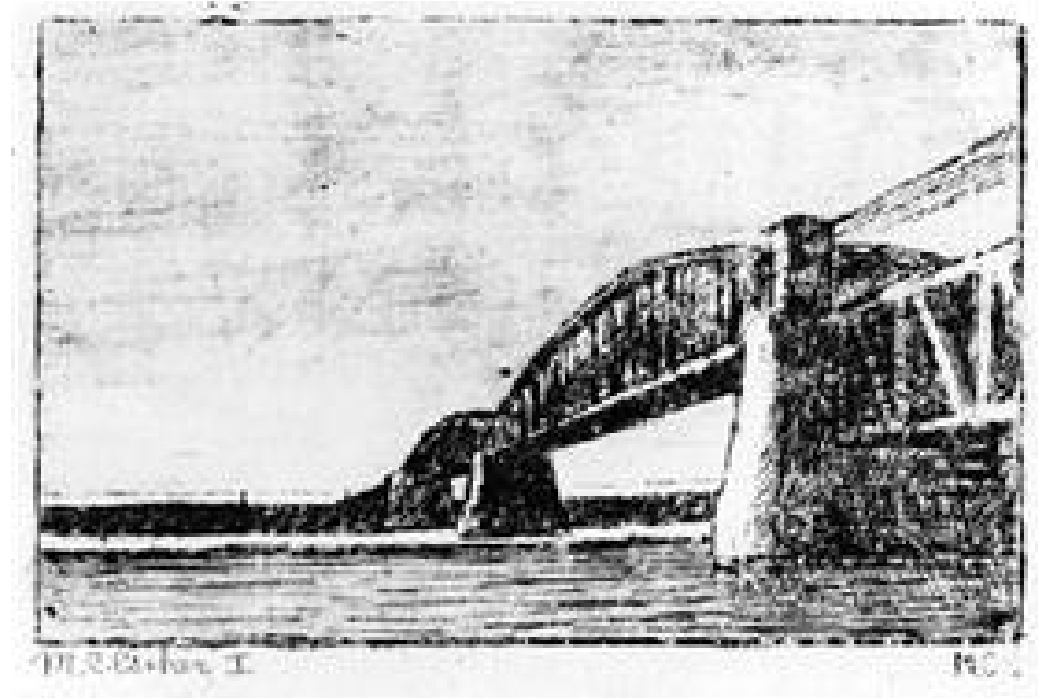
Dragon - no date

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Detail And Focus

Details in specific areas create the illusion that an object is closer to you and it allows you to focus on a specific area in the piece of art.

Instead of the bridge being a black blob, the artist added details to create space so it looks like you're on one side on river.



Railway Bridge, Oosterbeek - 1917

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Foreground, Middleground, Background

Divided areas that depict space

By changing the actual size and adding in more detail to the things that are “closer” and a lighter color to the “farther” things, you can see different areas that seem to be “farther”, “in the middle” or even “very close” to the viewer.



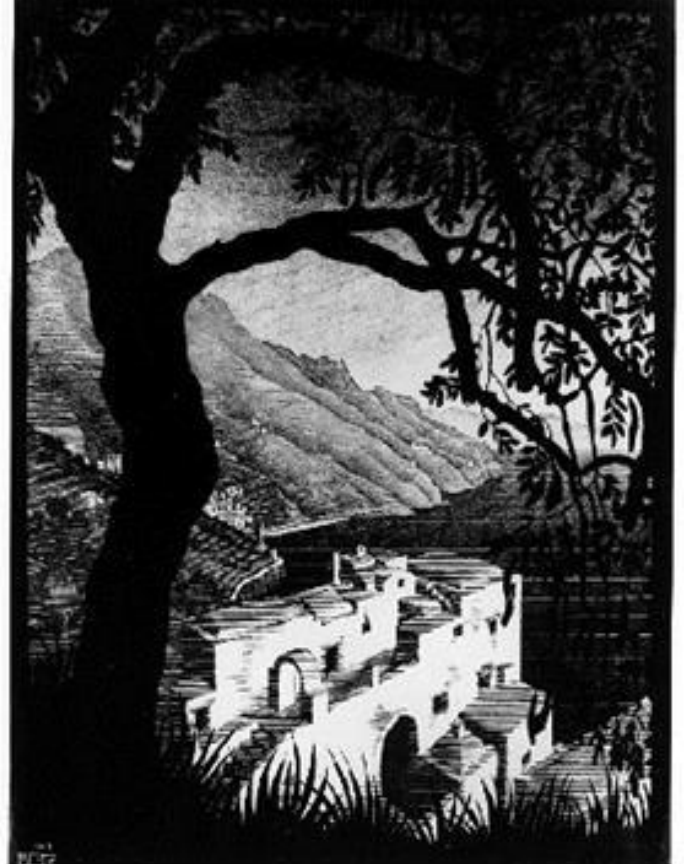
Castrovalva - no date

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Foreground, Middleground, Background

Divided areas that depict space

By creating space, the artist can make a 2D area look like it has a background, middle ground, and a foreground.



Coast Of Amalfi - 1931

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Figure/Ground Reversal

both positive and negative shapes are equally important.

Without the black tree, the white three wouldn't look the way it does, and without the white three, the black three wouldn't look the way it does. Same with the birds.



Trees And Animals - 1953