

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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National Museum of Mathematics Presents Groundbreaking Exhibition

Mathematics and the Art of M.C. Escher

October 1, 2026 – February 8, 2027

NEW YORK, NY – [The National Museum of Mathematics \(MoMath\)](#), the leading math museum in North America, today announced the upcoming exhibition *Mathematics and the Art of M.C. Escher* on view October 1, 2026 – February 8, 2027. Celebrated globally for his mind-bending images of impossible architecture, tessellations, and visual paradoxes, Escher is a beloved figure in both the art and math worlds. This is the first major M.C. Escher exhibition in Manhattan and differs from previous Escher exhibitions by highlighting the many ways in which his work intersects with mathematics. *Mathematics and the Art of M.C. Escher* explores the artist's work in a new way: through the elegant mathematical structures and concepts that underpin his astonishing creations.



The exhibition has been developed by MoMath in consultation with renowned M.C. Escher expert Doris Schattschneider; MoMath Outreach Mathematician Chaim Goodman-Strauss; Dr. Jürgen Richter-Gebert, professor at the Technical University of Munich; Presidential Teaching Award winner and Escher family friend David Masunaga; and North Carolina Museum of Art curator David Steel. The exhibition is produced by [The Escher Foundation](#) and includes the Traveling Exhibition provided by: [PANART Connections](#). The free public opening of the exhibition will take place on October 1, 2026 from 6:30-9:00 pm. [Registration is encouraged](#).

Mathematics and the Art of M.C. Escher features more than 60 wood engravings, lithographs, woodcuts, mezzotints, and drawings and includes woodblocks and a lithographic stone used by the artist, plus three-dimensional objects that he designed. Interpretive materials identify and explain mathematical concepts and structures found in the prints. The selection of works examines Escher not only as an artist but as an intuitive geometer whose works give visual form to mathematical ideas rarely seen outside of textbooks. The exhibition is accompanied by a publication authored by Doris Schattschneider and Salvatore Iaquinta, Secretary of the M.C. Escher Foundation, with a foreword by MoMath Executive Director and CEO Cindy Lawrence.

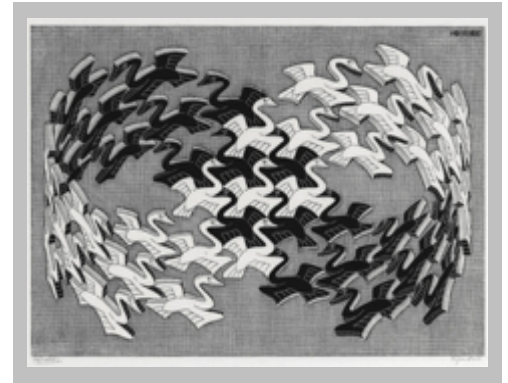


Lawrence commented that, “The parallels between MoMath and Escher’s art are remarkable, each serving as a gateway into the world of mathematics and making complex concepts feel

approachable and engaging. People are captivated by the whimsy and otherworldly qualities of Escher's images long before they recognize the mathematical ideas that make them possible. What begins as an appreciation for the beautiful and unusual becomes an exploration of symmetry, infinity, geometry, and perspective."

M.C. Escher struggled with mathematics as a student, barely passing his final high school math exam, yet he:

- learned from technical mathematical articles and illustrations;
- developed his "layman's theory" classifying shapes that can fill the plane, some in a regular manner;
- used mathematical ideas, particularly geometry, in creating his prints;
- created visual metaphors for abstract mathematical concepts;
- depicted complex symmetrical mathematical forms;
- played with perspective, gravity, infinity, and spatial logic to create illusions; and
- interacted with many mathematicians.



About M.C. Escher (1898 – 1972)

Maurits Cornelis Escher was a Dutch graphic artist known for his detailed, realistic prints that achieve bizarre optical and conceptual effects.

From 1919 to 1922, Escher studied at the School for Architecture and Decorative Arts in Haarlem, Netherlands, where he developed an interest in graphics and worked mainly in woodcut under the direction of his teacher Samuel Jessurun de Mesquita. He spent several years traveling and sketching throughout Europe, living in Italy from 1922 to 1935, and then moving to Switzerland and Belgium. In his prints and drawings from this period, Escher depicted landscapes and natural forms in a fantastic fashion by using multiple, conflicting perspectives.

Escher's mature style emerged after 1937 in a series of prints that combined meticulous realism with enigmatic optical illusions. Working in lithograph, wood engraving, and woodcut, he portrayed with great technical virtuosity impossible architectural spaces and unexpected metamorphoses of one object into another.



Sometimes referred to as the "father of modern tessellations," Escher commonly used geometric grids to form intricate interlocking designs. His series of regular division of the plane drawings (begun in 1936) is a collection of tessellations, most of which feature animals. He also explored mezzotint, a demanding and precise technique involving metal engraving, with which he produced some of his famous works in black and white, including *Eye* (1946), *Gallery* (1946), *Crystal* (1947) above, and *Dewdrop* (1948). In all, Escher produced approximately 450 lithographs, woodcuts, and wood



engravings and about 2,000 drawings and sketches in his lifetime. His images were of equal interest to mathematicians, cognitive psychologists, and the general public, and they were widely reproduced throughout the 20th century.

About MoMath

The National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) is North America's leading cultural institution dedicated to the wonders of mathematics and its many connections to the world around it. In 2026, MoMath moved to a permanent new location at 635 Sixth Avenue between West 19th and West 20th Streets in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood. The Museum is open seven days a week, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm unless otherwise noted at momath.org.

MoMath provides extensive online programs along with more than 70 on-site exhibits, including *Beaver Run* and the *Square-Wheeled Trike*. MoMath welcomes residents, members, families, school groups, and visitors from across the country and around the world. In-person activities such as the annual NYC Math Festival, talks, birthday parties, events, and field trips are also offered at MoMath.

Since opening in December 2012, MoMath has welcomed more than 1.5 million visitors, including more than 300,000 students. When New York City mandated closures in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MoMath shifted its programming online, establishing a strong global presence. Since then, MoMath has conducted nearly 6,300 online programs, reaching more than 190,000 participants from all 50 U.S. states and 145 countries.

For more information, please visit momath.org.

Media contacts

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Image Captions

All works should include the following image credit:

M.C. Escher artwork ©The M.C. Escher Heritage. EscherSite collection.

M.C. Escher (1898-1972), *Convex and Concave*, 1955, Lithograph, 10 7/8 x 13 1/4"

M.C. Escher (1898-1972), *Snakes*, 1969, Woodcut, 19 5/8 x 17 5/8"

M.C. Escher (1898-1972), *Swans*, 1956, Wood engraving, 7 7/8 x 12 1/2"

M.C. Escher (1898-1972), *Crystal*, 1947, Mezzotint, 5 1/4 x 6 3/4"