



Escher

Metamorphosis

Intro to Visual Arts
Ms. MacLure

Name:

Objective: You will create a graphic, pen and ink illustration in the style of M.C. Escher's Metamorphosis design, transforming one form of your choice into another.

Frameworks Objective(8.8, 1.9): Students will identify the stylistic features of M.C Escher's work and demonstrate the ability to create art that shows knowledge of its unique characteristics and media.



Materials: Bristol board, felt tip pen, pencil, ruler.

Overview:

M.C. Escher: was a Dutch graphic artist (June 1898- March 1972) known for his bizarre, geometric, mathematically inspired works of art. He primarily worked in blacks, whites and grays. They featured impossible constructions, explorations of infinity, architecture, and tessellations.

Although Escher did not have mathematical training—his understanding of mathematics was visual and intuitive—Escher's work was strongly influenced by math, and more than a few of the worlds which he drew are built around impossible mathematical objects. Escher used repeating, tiling shapes called tessellations.

The mathematical influence in his work emerged around 1936, when he was journeying the Mediterranean with the Adrian Shipping Company. Specifically, he became interested in order and symmetry. Escher described his journey through the Mediterranean as “the richest source of inspiration I have ever tapped.”

After his journey to the Mediterranean, Escher tried to improve upon his art by using geometric grids as the basis for his sketches, which he then overlaid with additional designs, mainly animals such as birds and lions.



Demos:

1. Picking 2 forms that can easily “transform” into each other. Ex: birds into feathers.
2. Composing the metamorphosis on paper
3. Pen and ink techniques for ultimate clarity.

Symmetry: When both sides of a whole are exactly the same.

Tesselation: Creating a tiled look with symmetrical pieces.

Metamorphosis: To begin as one thing and slowly transform into another. In terms of design-changing the aspects of a design ever so slightly bit by bit until the subject has completely transformed its appearance.

Contact: Questions? Email Ms. Mac at amaclure@valleytech.k12.ma.us

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Use the following steps...

- Think of two things that are similar in shape, OR that you can visualize transforming.
- Begin by drawing one subject at the bottom of the page (DEMO in class)
- Draw the other subject at the top of the page. (DEMO in class)
- Slowly change the lines, shapes, and forms of your subjects as they get closer together in the middle of the page. (DEMO in class).
- Outline and emphasize in pen and ink. Vary your line weight and fill some pieces in black.

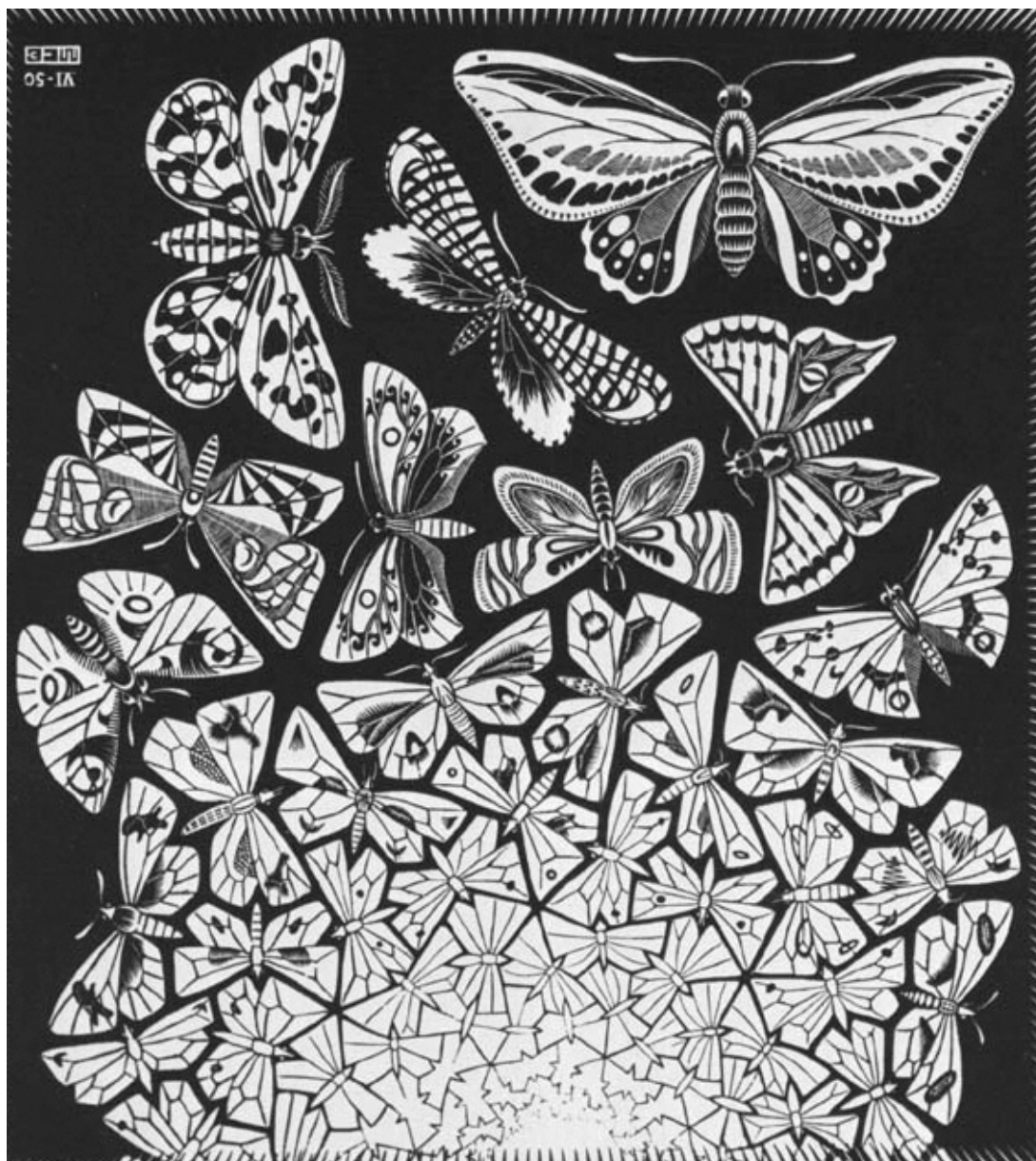
Assessment:

- Effort: **20 points**
- Demonstrates understanding of Escher's Metamorphosis series: **10 pts**
- Mastered transformation from one form to another in an interesting way: **10 pts**
- Varying line weights and blocking with felt tip pen: **10 pts**
- Final design has intricacy and detail: **10 pts**
- Design shows clarity of concept: **10 pts**
- Makes use of the negative and positive space equally: **10 pts**
- Used care with art materials: **20 pts**



Escher Metamorphosis: Examples

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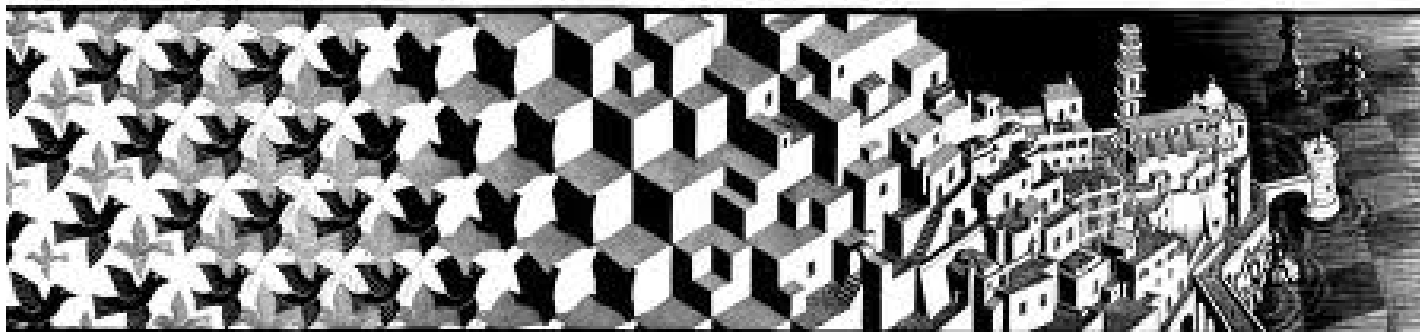
**“I don’t use
drugs, my
dreams are
frightening
enough”**

**-M.C.
Escher**

**“Only those
who attempt
the absurd
will achieve
the impossi-
ble”**

**-M.C.
Escher**

The image above is your primary source of inspiration for this project.



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Escher Metamorphosis: Homework

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1. What kind of work is M.C. Escher known for? **20 pts:**
2. Explain what a metamorphosis is in this context: **20pts?**
3. What is a tessellation, and why might it be useful in making a metamorphosis design: **20 pts?**
4. Pick one metamorphosis image from this packet and explain how using negative space, Escher transformed one form into another **20pts:**
5. In the thumbnail spaces below, practice sketching rough ideas for your metamorphosis. Start by making a small list of subjects you can see yourself drawing that you can transform. **20 pts.**

For example:

- Butterfly into a flower
- A person's face into a cat's face.

