Moxie University
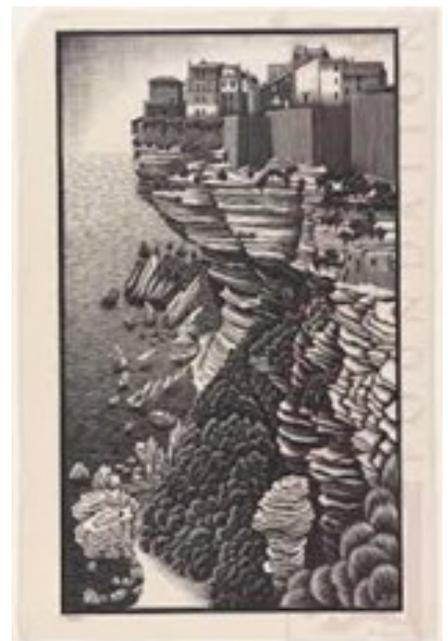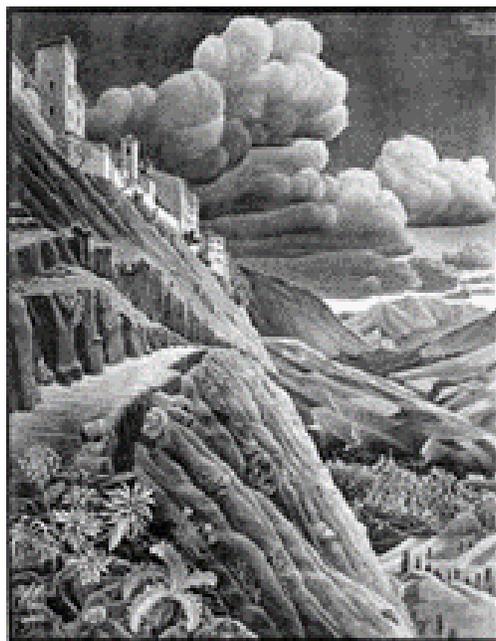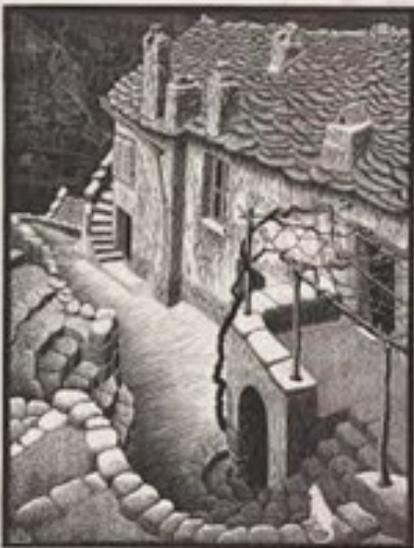
M.C Escher

Maurits Cornelis Escher, 1898 – 1972, has a popularity that has grown over the years and remains to this day. He occupies a unique space in modern culture. His work has attained an almost cult-like-status.

His images shock, entertain, provoke, and more than anything else, force the viewer to challenge their assumptions about reality.

Self-Portrait 1929 https://www.artic.edu/

Escher was born in The Netherlands but his career started with a trip to Italy and Spain in 1922. He produced lovely studies of the Italian towns and countryside. They are beautiful on their own and have little resemblance to his later, more experimental creations.

https://en.wikipedia.org/

> *"I am driven by the irresistible pleasure I feel in repeating the same shapes over and over." - M.C. Escher*

During a trip to the Alhambra in Spain he was captivated by the beautiful, complicated patterns. It inspired him to begin his space filling designs he is known for. Escher took this existing concept and took it to a new level.

← Alhambra
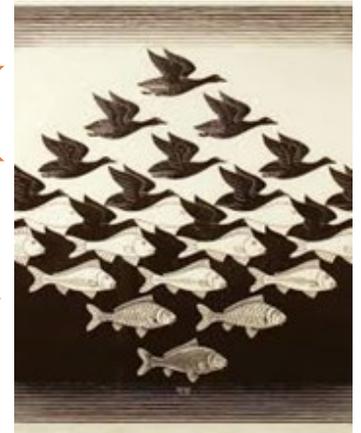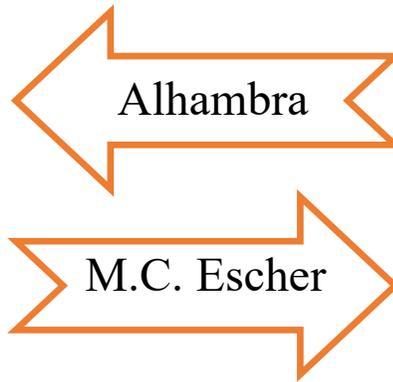
M.C. Escher →

Later in his career Escher experimented with new concepts. Primarily he played with "impossible constructs," from other worlds to objects that do not exist, these images have inspired countless minds. "Waterfall," created in 1961, illustrates the water is actually flowing uphill, thus creating an endless cycle of flow. Escher loved to play with the concept of perspective, the way the eye perceives objects and their relationships to other objects.

https://en.wikipedia.org/

> *"Only those who attempt the absurd...will achieve the impossible."*
>
> - M.C. Escher

Escher's work is often associated with mathematical concepts. Often you will find mathematics texts using Escher's "Circle Limit" designs as a way to illustrate the concept of infinity, the way that the patterns multiply exponentially at the edges of the circle. This pattern has some similarities with fractal design.

The Honeycomb Conjecture

Have you ever wondered how honeycomb cells can have such a perfect, hexagonal shape? People have speculated about this for years. How can the bees make each side of each cell the exact same size? They are mathematically perfect and efficient for many reasons. Write down your own theory of why and how this natural phenomenon may occur. Then, scan the QR code or visit moxieboxart.com/moxie-u for an interesting NPR article by Robert Krulwich.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fractal