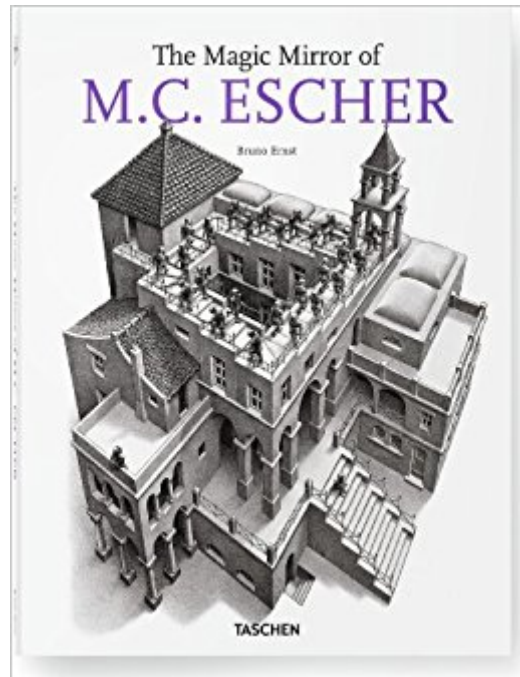




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The Magic Mirror Of M.C. Escher



Synopsis

Mathematical problems and visual illusions in the enigmatic work of M.C. Escher

"A woman once rang me up and said, 'Mr. Escher, I am absolutely crazy about your work. In your print *Reptiles* you have given such a striking illustration of reincarnation.' I replied, 'Madame, if that's the way you see it, so be it.'" An engagingly sly comment by the renowned Dutch graphic artist Maurits Cornelis Escher (1898–1972) the complex ambiguities of whose work leave hasty or single-minded interpretations far behind. Long before the first computer-generated 3-D images were thrilling the public, Escher was a master of the third dimension. His lithograph "*Magic Mirror*" dates as far back as 1946. In taking that title for this book, mathematician Bruno Ernst is stressing the magic spell Escher's work invariably casts on those who see it. Ernst visited Escher every week for a year, systematically talking through his entire oeuvre with him. Their discussions resulted in a friendship that gave Ernst intimate access to the life and conceptual world of Escher. Ernst's account was meticulously scrutinized and made accurate by the artist himself. Escher's work refuses to be pigeonholed. Scientific, psychological, or aesthetic criteria alone cannot do it justice. The questions remain. Why did he create the pictures? How did he construct them? What preliminary studies were necessary before he could arrive at the final version? And how are the various images Escher created interrelated? This book, complete with biographical data, 250 illustrations, and explications of mathematical problems, offers answers to these and many other questions, and is an authentic source text of the first order.

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Dutch (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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always wanted to know how this guy thought. interesting how his thought process worked for him and his art work

Great stuff, I just don't understand it.

one of my favorite Eschers is a 1960 woodcut that presents a fascinating image of men 'scending' - ascending and descending simultaneously. two other marvels are his 1961 wood engraving of a Moebius strip, and his 1963 woodcut of a Moebius strip round which red ants are endlessly heading. among my tiptop favs is his 1955 lithograph Three Worlds presenting the surface of a pond, and a fish below, and the mirrored image of three trees overseeing. his tessellations also charm; ahhhhh the variety and the originality of his art!

Actually, I'm a docent at the North Carolina Museum of Art, and we are having a special exhibition of Escher's work this fall. I am reading the book to learn about him and his work. This fills the bill!

I do love books (enough to constantly find new owners for old favorite-necessitating frequent replacements...) I particularly like the clarity & generous size of many of the reproductions in this volume..

Gift to my son. He is a big fan of Escher.

wonderful book. arrived a week before

I have always admired the works of M.C. Escher, and this anniversary book is an excellent purchase. It contains most of the amazing illustrations the artist created during his lifetime, along with an excellent biography about the artist. For the price, I would also consider purchasing for gift giving for the upcoming holidays.

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