



M.C. Escher: His Life and Complete Graphic Work (With a Fully Illustrated Catalogue)

J.L. Locher , M.C. Escher , F. Bool

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Since Ester's death in 1972, at the age of seventy-three, much previously unpublished material has become available to his biographers, who have put it to good use. The story of the artist's life is told here with the help of virtually his entire correspondence, the journals of his travels, and, to supply the facts about his youthful years, the journals kept by his father.

M.C. Escher: His Life and Complete Graphic Work (With a Fully Illustrated Catalogue) Details

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From Reader Review M.C. Escher: His Life and Complete Graphic Work (With a Fully Illustrated Catalogue) for online ebook

Steven Peterson says

Boy, I really enjoy this volume! For people unfamiliar with the name Escher, many have, nonetheless, seen some of his more mind bending works. Many of his artistic creations have an impossibility about them--even as they look reasonable in terms of specific parts of each. Other of his woodcuts or wood engravings are enchanting in their own right.

The first part of the book is more biographical, although this segment is also richly sprinkled with examples of his work.

But it is the catalog, starting on page 176, that, to me, is at the heart of this volume. Some of the works that are especially of interest to me: (page 273) "Day and Night," in which white birds and black birds blend into one another; (page 293) "Up and Down," a mind altering look at two levels of a house that cannot be but seem to be; (page 308) "Curves and Concaves," people climbing ladders and looking through windows in a manner that leaves one's head spinning; (page 323; my personal favorite), "Waterfall," in which water flows around a structure to a waterfall, which looks fine but is impossible and one's head, again, spins!

Interested in Escher's work? This is an excellent starting point.

Jim says

Wonderful volume. Reproductions of most of his works.

Natasha says

Excellent review of Escher's life and work with images of diagrams and models he created in figuring out problems related to dividing the plane and figure/space/plane relations. Explanations about how he created his visual puzzles are given. Escher's personal letters to colleagues and family give rise to his personal perspectives on his work and life. The only issue: text at times refers to particular works and where to find these images are not readily identified - I find myself having to go to the index repeatedly, which slows reading and detracts a bit from the experience. Otherwise, I am just so pleased to have be able to see the preliminary diagrams and the resulting final products!

Liston Morris says

I actually found this at a yard sale. Besidea having hundreds of prints of Escher's work it also has a complete bio.

Andrew says

This is one of my all time favorite books and I have read it a number of times. I still cannot get over the level of details and mathematical precision used when they are in fact lithographs and where done some of them in the 30s. I was first introduced to his work as posters from the student haven called Athena (yes you know the one) and rapidly became fascinated with his impossible works. Always a joy to read and i think this is the best book on his work.

John P says

Simply stunning. The text is insightful describing Escher's loss to explain why he, alone apparently, was fascinated by the 'tiling of the plane'; is poignant in his son's description of Escher's last days. Those new to Escher will be stunned to find out that his works were primarily done as woodcuts. The wood blocks, then inked, are used to stamp the images with which we are all familiar.

John says

A work colleague introduced me to the brilliant works of Escher many years ago. I am still amazed by the brilliance of his art.... superb.

Tabitha says

This text has a lengthy biography complete with letters. It is followed by a paper on Escher's work from the perspective of mathematician Bruno Ernst. Also included is a 20 page (huge pages) essay by M.C. Escher on his "hobby" of regular division of the plane, as translated into English. Finally there is a catalog containing all the prints and work Escher prepared onto paper wrought on paper. Unfortunately, most of the catalog is in black and white. This really robs many of the works of their full value. However, this text is a good way to see prints not typically seen and then try to find them online in color. Some cannot be found online presently, in any form.

I recommend skipping the biography (unless you're really into that), reading the two essays, and perusing the images in the catalog.

Chris says

Forget all that crap you see silk-screened onto mouse pads and t-shirts. This book has the real goods.

bookyeti says

Perfection! A treasury of Escher's work. A book I wouldn't want to do without.

Autumn says

This book contained not only the old familiar favorites, but many works new to me as well. I enjoyed looking at them The drawing of his father on his deathbed somewhat startled me.

There were also many biographical pages. They would be helpful for anyone with an interest in his life or doing research for school.

Kirsteen says

I read this book years ago and I found the writing to be pretty clear. What I loved about this though was that there were an extensive number of pictures of Escher's works.

Lynda says

This is a great biography and also contains most of his works.
