

CHRONOLOGY

- 1898 Maurits Cornelis Escher born to George Arnold Escher and Sarah Gleichman in Leeuwarden, Netherlands, on 17 June, the youngest of five brothers.
- 1903 The Escher family moves to Arnhem.
- 1912 - 1918 Attends secondary school in Arnhem where he produced his first graphic work, a linoleum cut.
- 1917 The Escher family moves to Oosterbeek. Escher produces his first etching: *Railway Bridge across the Rhine at Oosterbeek*.
- 1919 - 1922 Escher attends the School for Architecture and Decorative Arts in Haarlem. During his time there, he created his first woodcuts including *Fairy Tale* and *Wild West*.
- 1921 Travels to the French Riviera and Italy. *Flor de Pascua (Easter Flower)*, by Aad von Stolk, is published with woodcuts by Escher.
- 1922 Travels to Italy and Spain, where he visits Alhambra for the first time. First Italian landscape woodcut completed in July. Moves to Siena in November where he produces his first tessellation, *Eight Heads*.
- 1923 13-26 August: First solo exhibition in Siena.
- 1924 First exhibition in The Netherlands, at the gallery De Zonnebloem, The Hague in February. Marries Jetta Umiker on 12 June. They buy an apartment in Rome.
- 1926 Exhibition in Rome in May. Son George Escher born on 23 July. Growing fame in The Netherlands leads to numerous exhibitions there in the following years.
- 1927 - 1935 Annual travels in Italy.
- 1928 Son Arthur Escher born on 8 December.
- 1932 - 1933 *XXIV Emblemata (XXIV Epigrams)* by G.J. Hoogewerff, with woodcuts by Escher published, as is, *De vreeselijke avonturen van Scholastica (The Terrible Adventures of Scholastica)* by Jan Walch with woodcuts by Escher.
- 1934 Wins third prize at the Exhibition of Contemporary Prints, Art Institute of Chicago, for the lithograph *Nonza*. This is the first Escher work to enter an American collection.
- 1935 Moves his family to Switzerland in July. Rents a house in Chateau-d'Oex in September.

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- 1936 Travels along the Mediterranean coast. Second visit to the Alhambra. Turning point in Escher's work, shifting from landscapes to 'mental imagery.'
- 1937 Moves his family to Brussels. Creation of the first *Metamorphosis*.
- 1938 Son Jan Escher is born on March 6th. Creation of *Day and Night* and *Sky and Water*.
- 1939 His father dies on June 14th. In November Escher starts on *Metamorphosis II*.
- 1940 German invasion of The Netherlands on May 10. His mother dies on May 27th.
- 1941 Moves his family to Baarn, Holland due to the German invasion of The Netherlands during World War II.
- 1946 First mezzotints.
- 1951 Articles published in *The Studio* (February), *Time* (April), and *Life* (May) spark international interest.
- 1954 - 1961 Resumes his annual travels to Italy.
- 1954 Exhibition at the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, in conjunction with the International Mathematical Conference in September. Exhibition at the Whyte Gallery, Washington, D.C., in October, marking the beginning of a strong collectors' market for Escher prints in America.
- 1955 The family moves into a new house in Baarn in February. On April 30th Escher was knighted by Queen Juliana.
- 1962 Escher undergoes the first of several serious operations requiring extended hospitalization in April. In the following years his health is uncertain. Escher designs a tessellation for a pillar in the new 'Provinciale Waterstaat' building in Haarlem.
- 1967 Escher is promoted to Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau, in The Netherlands.
- 1968 Exhibition at the Gemeentemuseum, The Hague, in June in honor of Escher's 70th birthday. The M.C. Escher foundation is established to preserve, promote and protect his works. Jetta moves to Switzerland to live with Jan at the end of the year.

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- 1969 *Metamorphose III* is unveiled at the main post office in The Hague. In July Escher made his last graphic work, the woodcut *Snakes*.
- 1970 Moves to Rosa Spierhuis in Laren, Holland, in August after a major operation.
- 1972 Dies in the hospital in Hilversum, 27 March, at the age of seventy three.