

Press Release

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MARINA BAY *Sands*®
SINGAPORE



Relativity, 1953, Lithograph by M.C. Escher
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Step into M.C. Escher's World of Wonder with ArtScience Museum's latest exhibition

More than 150 original works set to transport visitors into the graphic artist's imaginative and paradoxical universe

Singapore (22 September 2016) – Step into a world of impossible architectural constructions and optical illusions at ArtScience Museum's latest exhibition – *Journey to Infinity: Escher's World of Wonder*. The exhibition, featuring over 150 original works by Dutch artist M.C. Escher, will make its Southeast Asian debut from 24 September. It includes masterpieces drawn from private collections from around the world, and is one of the largest and most significant exhibitions of Escher's work to be staged in Asia.

Narrated through six zones, *Journey to Infinity: Escher's World of Wonder* takes visitors on an immersive journey into the creative world of Escher, from his earlier works of nature and landscape, to his renowned works on tessellation and the transformation of shapes, to the captivating illusions of infinity in the later part of his artistic career.

The exhibition culminates with ‘Escher Mania’, a section that illustrates Escher’s widespread influence on pop culture in the 20th and 21st century. Escher’s unique mathematical approach has inspired people from a myriad of backgrounds, from architects and fashion designers to singers and filmmakers. The graphic artist was even personally approached by Mick Jagger to create the album artwork for the Rolling Stones – a request which he declined.

"We are thrilled to be bringing one of the great exemplars of the interrelationship between art and science, M.C. Escher, to Singapore for the first time. Escher is celebrated not only by the artistic community but also by the scientific community for his extraordinary ability to depict infinite worlds. More than an art historical presentation of one of the 20th century's great artists, this exhibition is an immersive, playful, and interactive journey into the poetic worlds that Escher created. Alongside his masterpieces, we are presenting large-scale optical illusions, dazzling installations, engaging hands-on learning projects, and games that take us inside Escher's realm of wonder. Escher’s art continues to fascinate millions of people all over the world and inspires generations of artists, architects, mathematicians, musicians and designers, who are captivated by his playful fantasies and fascinating constructions. This show will give our visitors the opportunity to delve deeper into Escher's logic-defying world," said Ms Honor Harger, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum, Marina Bay Sands.

"The reason why I am so passionate about M.C. Escher is because of the way his mathematical approach and outstanding artistic capabilities have made his work so inspiring – not only to mathematicians, scientists and artists, but also to the public. Since this is the exhibition’s Southeast Asian debut, I am excited for M.C. Escher’s name and his works to gain more exposure to the masses on this side of the world," said Dr. Federico Giudiceandrea, curator of *Journey to Infinity: Escher’s World of Wonder*.

Emphasising the ongoing influence that Escher has on contemporary artists, there are several artworks and projects included that are by participants in Singapore. Local artist and architect Richard Hassell, founder of Singaporean architecture firm WOHA, has his stunning Escher-inspired artwork included in the exhibition. Other local elements include works by researchers from the Singapore University of Technology and Design-MIT International Design Centre, as well as a large Escher-inspired metamorphosis piece by a group of students and alumni from Nanyang Polytechnic’s School of Interactive & Digital Media.

Interactives

Journey to Infinity: Escher’s World of Wonder will feature unique interactives that are specially developed to engage and educate visitors of all ages on the scientific concepts behind M.C. Escher’s work – namely tessellation, metamorphosis, optical illusions, and concepts of infinity. Below are some examples of what visitors can expect during the exhibition:

Tessellation	<p><i>Tessellation Puzzle Activity</i></p> <p>Visitors are invited to explore the potentials of tessellation with a large-scale Escher-inspired puzzle, through which they will discover the four principles of tessellation.</p>
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Metamorphosis	<p><i>Singapore's Metamorphosis</i></p> <p>Taking inspiration from M.C. Escher's <i>Metamorphosis II</i>, students and alumni of Nanyang Polytechnic's School of Interactive & Digital Media specially created a piece to illustrate the evolution of Singapore – from a fishing village to a bustling Garden City.</p> <p>The interactive installation allows visitors to witness shapes morph into different forms.</p>
Optical illusions	<p><i>The Relativity Room</i></p> <p>M.C. Escher was fascinated with the peculiar problems of depicting perspective. He created seemingly strange and impossible environments through his body of works. Visitors can step into Escher's <i>Relativity Room</i>, which plays with the room's proportions to create a distorted illusion of size.</p>
Exploring the Infinity	<p><i>The Mirror Room</i></p> <p>In this gallery, visitors can enter a room lined with mirrors – creating infinite reflections of the fish-shaped figures on display. Through the illusion of mirrors and the similar fish figures inspired by M.C. Escher's works, the <i>Mirror Room</i> attempts to bring to life, the expression of the limitless.</p>
	<p><i>Convex and Concave Sphere</i></p> <p>Set at varying levels, these reflective convex and concave spheres will give visitors distorted reflections to illustrate the different effects of curved surfaces at different heights.</p>

Creating an immersive “Escher-O-sphere” experience with games on social media

“My work is a game, a very serious game.” – M.C. Escher

Over the course of the exhibition, the public can engage with ArtScience Museum on its official social media platforms – Facebook and Instagram – through a series of interactive games, contests and stories. The content is based on six Escher-inspired realms of Mathematics, Natural Science, Architecture, Technology, Space and Entertainment.

The public can either take part in the #EscherOnScreen movie quiz on Facebook or get inspired by #iSpyEscher photo contests on Instagram. Visitors to the exhibition can also snap n’ tag a #EscherSelfie, fabricate a #EscherClone facsimile in 3D, submit a funny #EscherSketch Maths joke or replicate a #EscherTessellate #bestofnine Instagram with Giant Square.

Further enhancing the “Escherosphere Experience”, visitors can also participate in a series of fun and interactive Escher-themed programmes and workshops:

<p>Conversations: A Very Serious Game</p> <p>Saturday 24 September, 2pm Expression Gallery Level 4</p> <p><i>Free admission</i></p>	<p>A visionary of his time, M.C. Escher saw the world differently. His works reflected a whimsical nature that delved into minute details, creating new perspectives that make us relook the world around us.</p> <p>Explore the game of art and mathematics and how Escher's practice resonates with artists, computer programmers, architects and mathematicians today at <i>Conversations: A Very Serious Game</i>.</p>
<p>Curator's Tour with Dr. Federico Giudiceandrea</p> <p>24 September, 11.30am – 12.30pm</p>	<p>Join curator, Dr. Federico Giudiceandrea as he takes you through the realm of M.C. Escher's imagination. See how Escher illustrates the poetry of mathematics and the scientific processes at play within architecture and design. This exclusive insight into the curatorial process will provide an in-depth understanding of the exhibition narrative and fun facts about each work.</p> <p><i>Complimentary to ticket-holders of Journey to Infinity: Escher's World of Wonder. Up to 25 participants on a first-come, first-served basis.</i></p>
<p>ArtScience Late: ARTS FISSION</p> <p>Thursday 29 September, 7pm – 10pm</p> <p><i>Free admission</i></p>	<p>This September, <i>ArtScience Late</i> teams up with contemporary dance company ARTS FISSION to present a site-specific dance performance, <i>Mirror of Clandestine Blooms</i>.</p> <p>The performance is conceived by Cultural Medallion recipient, choreographer Angela Liong to celebrate the opening of <i>Journey to Infinity: Escher's World of Wonder</i>. This performance interpretation of M.C. Escher's mathematical ideas through dance is propelled by the music of J.S. Bach, with ArtScience Museum's architecture providing a spatial counterpoint.</p> <p>The site-specific creation maps the architectural features of the museum, covering the building with temporal dance pieces that take inspiration from M. C. Escher's fantastical spatial vision. Audiences are led through to various spaces on a journey of discovery to encounter different performance segments.</p>
<p>Make Your Own Tessellation Prints Workshop</p>	<p>Participants can take inspiration from M. C. Escher's iconic artworks and design their own tessellation prints. This family-friendly workshop encourages participants to discover the</p>

<p>7, 14, 21 & 28 October 4.30pm – 5.30pm</p> <p>More dates to be announced.</p>	<p>poetry of mathematics through a hands-on art-making session.</p> <p><i>S\$3 per participant, available to ticket-holders of Journey to Infinity: Escher's World of Wonder. Up to 20 participants on a first-come, first-served basis.</i></p>
<p>Maker-style workshops by FabCafé Singapore</p> <p>Tessellation Totes: 2, 15 & 16 October*</p> <p>* Please note that dates are subject to change.</p>	<p>The newly-opened FabCafé at ArtScience Museum will present a series of seasonal workshops in line with its maker concept. Participants can experiment with innovative new fabrication technology to create Escher-inspired meta-materials and tessellation totes in these fun, hands-on sessions conducted by the team at FabCafé Singapore.</p> <p><i>Limited slots per session. Pricing to be advised.</i></p>
<p>Public Guided Tour</p> <p>In English: 30 September, 7, 14, 21 & 28 October 3pm - 4pm</p> <p>In Mandarin: 8, 15, 22, 29 October 2pm - 3pm & 4pm - 5pm</p> <p>More dates to be announced.</p>	<p>The public guided exhibition tour brings visitors into the realm of Escher's imagination. Discover how mathematical ideas and art are intertwined in Escher's artworks, and how his way of thinking continues to have a profound influence today.</p> <p><i>Complimentary to ticket-holders of Journey to Infinity: Escher's World of Wonder. Up to 25 participants on a first-come, first-served basis.</i></p>

Journey to Infinity: Escher's World of Wonder is a parallel project of Singapore Biennale 2016 and will be part of Singapore Art Week 2017. The exhibition will run from 24 September 2016 until the first quarter of 2017.

Tickets for *Journey to Infinity: Escher's World of Wonder* are available at all Marina Bay Sands box offices and on the website. Terms and conditions apply.

		Ticket bundles	
		(SINGLE ACCESS) Journey to Infinity: Escher's World of Wonder	(ALL ACCESS) Future World, Big Bang Data and Journey to Infinity
STANDARD TICKET (SGD)	Adult	\$17	\$30
	Seniors (65 years and above)	\$14	\$25
	Child (2-12 years)	\$10	\$19
	Family package (2 kids & 2 adults)	\$44	\$70
SINGAPORE RESIDENT (SGD)	Adult	\$14	\$25
	Seniors (65 years and above)	\$11	\$20
	Child (2-12 years)	\$7	\$15
	Family package (2 kids & 2 adults)	\$35	\$60

For more information on *Journey to Infinity: Escher's World of Wonder*, please visit www.marinabaysands.com/ArtScienceMuseum

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About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the lineup of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit www.marinabaysands.com

About ArtScience Museum

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands is Southeast Asia's leading cultural institution that explores the interrelationship between art, science, technology and culture. Featuring 21 galleries totaling 50,000 square feet, the iconic lotus-inspired building has staged major exhibitions by some of the 20th century's key artists, including Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as major exhibitions which explore aspects of scientific history.

About M.C. Escher Foundation

The M.C. Escher Foundation was established by Escher himself in 1968 and its goal was (and still is) the presentation of the legacy of his work. Unfortunately, a large part of his original collection was sold in 1981 to an American art dealer and is thus scattered around the world. The M.C. Escher Foundation organises exhibitions of his work worldwide, publishes articles, books, documentaries, films etc.

About Arthemisia

Arthemisia Group is Italy's leading company in the production, organisation and staging of art exhibitions. Arthemisia Group has introduced and consolidated a new way of creating exhibitions, and is now a national and international point of reference for the organisation and production of high quality art events. Since 2000, Arthemisia has produced more than 450 exhibitions. For more information, visit www.artemisia.it

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