

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ESCHER ACQUISITIONS PUT ON VIEW

WASHINGTON, D. C. July 24, 1974. A selection of prints by the late Dutch printmaker M. C. Escher, part of a collection assembled by C. V. S. Roosevelt the bulk of which was given by him to the National Gallery of Art in December 1973 and January of this year, is on view in the Corridor Gallery on the ground floor.

Mr. Roosevelt's gift, joining the Gallery's present Escher holdings in the Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection, has produced the most important Escher study collection outside the artist's own bequest to the Mauritshuis in The Hague.

The exhibition, on view through November, traces the development of Escher's work beginning with a large group of prints executed in Italy from about 1922 until 1934. Included in these rare early works is a series of seven woodcuts and the title page from the portfolio entitled The Days of Creation. The works from this early period, which illustrate the artist's personal sense of observed reality, already show the beginnings of the spatial relationships exemplified in his later prints.

Escher's enigmatic style evolved after his trip to Spain in the mid-1930s. The precise and meticulous later works,

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principally in woodcut, wood-engraving, lithograph, and mezzotint, reflect the artist's extraordinary concern with the ambiguities of visual perception and space. Typical examples included in the exhibition are the well-known House of Stairs, Day and Night, Belvedere, and Another World.

Escher (1898-1972) was born in Leeuwarden, Holland. He subsequently lived and worked in Rome for twelve years, then in Switzerland and Belgium. In 1941 he settled again in Holland in a small village near Amsterdam.

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