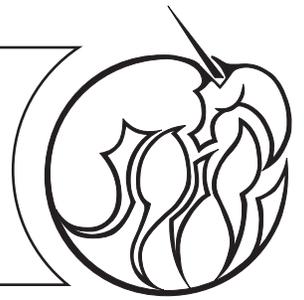


{ the avant-garde }

Katherine N. Crowley Fine Art & Design



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER VOLUME V No. 4 APRIL 2011



{pysanky}

The colorful art of decorating Easter eggs, or Pysanky, has been a Ukrainian tradition for over ten centuries.

At one time, the egg was associated with pagan rituals and superstitions, symbolizing the release of the earth from the shackles of winter into spring; with its promise of new hope, new life, health and prosperity. In 988 AD when Ukraine accepted Christianity, the decorating of eggs took on a deep religious meaning. The Pysanky commemorated the Resurrection of Christ, and a promise of eternal life. The pagan superstitions were replaced by religious beliefs and legends.

Pysanky, the richly decorated raw eggs, are never eaten. They are kept in the home from year to year as decorations and as protection from evil, fire and lightning. Friends exchange Pysanky that have been blessed on Easter morning to commemorate Christ's teachings of peace and love.

The word Pysanky comes from the Ukrainian word "pysaty" which means to write. Pysanky are decorated

by a complicated dye process similar to Batik. Melted beeswax is applied with a stylus, which is called a "kistka" or "pysaltse" to a fresh egg, raw, and clear of blemishes. The egg is dipped into a succession of dye baths, starting from the lightest, usually yellow, and ending with the darkest, typically black. Between each dipping, wax is applied over areas where the preceding color is to remain. After all the designing is complete, the wax is melted off and a hard glaze is applied. Bees wax is used because it stays liquid longer than paraffin, is more pliable, and has an adhering quality; and, of course bee-keeping was very common, so a large natural supply was on hand.

Although no two Pysanky are exactly alike, there are certain designs and methods of arranging them. Individuality is achieved by varying combinations of designs and colors. The designs or motifs may be divided into three categories: geometric, plant and animal. Motifs of all three categories are usually combined in one design.

{upcoming exhibitions}

**Motorist Mutual Exhibit**

featuring new work by members of the
Worthington Area Art League

May 20-June 16, 2011

Motorist Mutual Insurance Company
471 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.artinview.com

{a portrait of the artist: m.c. escher}

M.C. Escher, born Maurits Cornelis Escher, was a graphic designer from The Netherlands. He is best known for his woodcuts, lithographs and mezzotints of mathematically inspired "impossible structures".

As a child Escher struggled in school. As a young man Escher studied the decorative arts at the Haarlem School of Architecture and Decorative Arts. In 1922 he left the school and traveled through Italy and Spain. He met Jetta Umiker while in Italy and the couple married in 1924. The two settled in Rome but as World War II loomed the Eschers continued to relocate around Europe until they found their home in Baarn, the Netherlands.

Inspired by the Italian landscape and Moorish art Escher began illustrating mathematical concepts around 1936 as he traveled through the Mediterranean. He began experimenting with the concept of the 17 wallpaper groups, or plane symmetry groups. In an

**Pysanky continued from Page 1**

The geometric motifs are the same as found in many forms of primitive art, but their use in Pysanky gives them specific names and symbolic meanings. Ribbons and belts that encircle the egg with no beginning or end symbolize eternity. Triangles symbolize trios, such as the circle of life of birth, life, death; the Holy Trinity, and the natural elements of fire, air, and water. Stars once symbolized the pagan gods, and now stand for life, growth and good fortune. The cross appears in many forms and symbolizes the four corners of the world, and Christianity.

The plant motifs are stylized flowers, leaves, and branches; and they symbolize love, charity, good-will, strength, virility, health and a bountiful harvest. Pine trees symbolize eternal youth, strength and health.

Of the three types, animal motifs are the most difficult to draw. They appear less frequently than either the geometric or plant motifs. Reindeer and horses are placed in open spaces in the design, and symbolize wealth and prosperity. Birds are mostly depicted at rest. Hens, which symbolize fertility and the fulfillment of wishes, are often placed on branches. All drawings of insects are called butterflies, and are the symbol of the Resurrection.

The eggs, covered with symbols, are dyed in warm colors dominated by red, the life-giving substance blood, stands for love and happiness. Other colors are yellow, the color of ripe crops, honey, amber, gold represents the moon and wished for a good harvest. Green symbolizes the growth power of plants. Brown and black, the Mother Earth. White symbolizes purity.

The tradition of the Ukrainian Easter Egg has been passed down from mother to daughter for many generations; and today, this heritage provides the world with Easter Eggs that are truly works of art.

{all around the town}

{fine art}

CCAD's Senior Fashion Show (<http://www.ccad.edu>)
 "Masters of Design", May 13, 2011

The Columbus Cultural Arts Center
 (<http://www.culturalartscenteronline.org>)
 "Face 2 Face: Studios on High", April 15-May 11

The Columbus Museum of Art (<http://www.columbusmuseum.org>)
 "Fur, Fins & Feathers", Through June 5

"Shared Intelligence: American Paintings & the Photograph"
 February 4-April 24

Dublin Arts Council (<http://www.dublinarts.org>)
 "Gene Friley: All About Evenatom", March 8-April 22

McConnell Arts Center (<http://www.mcconnellarts.org>)
 "Expressions of Goodwill", March 17-May 8

"2011 Young Artist Exhibition", March 10-April 10

"Dance in Motion: Stephanie Matthews"

The Riffe Gallery (<http://www.oac.state.oh.us/riffe/>)
 "Here's Looking at You: Portraits in Ohio", January 27-April 17

The Wexner Center (<http://www.wexarts.org>)
 "Candice Breitz: Factum", February 4-April 17

"Double Sexus", Hans Bellmer & Louise Bourgeois,
 March 26-July 31

{performing arts}

BalletMet (<http://www.balletmet.org>)
 "7 Deadly Sins", featuring Shadowbox Live, April 29-May 7,
 Capitol Theater

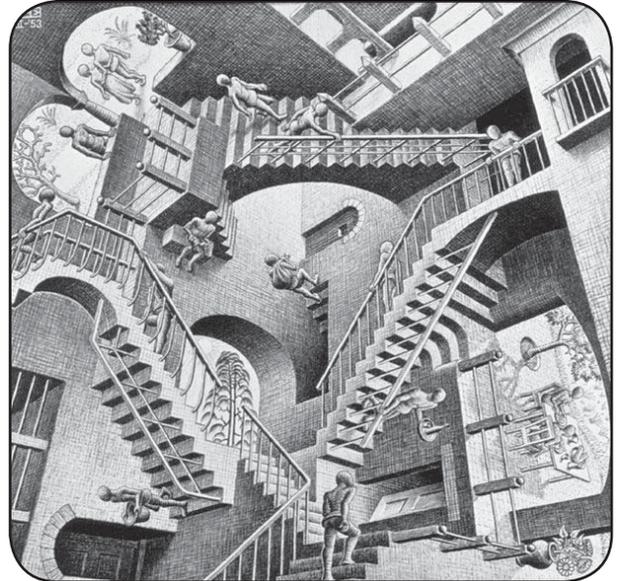
Columbus Symphony (<http://www.columbussymphony.com>)
 All performances at the Ohio Theater
 "Cirque De La Symphonie" April 2
 "Beethoven's Eroica" April 9-10

CAPA (<http://www.capa.com>)
 "Imagination Movers", April 1, Palace Theater
 "Steve Solomon's: My Mother's Italian My Father's Jewish &
 I'm in Therapy", April 1-2, Lincoln Theater
 "Complexions Contemporary Ballet", April 7-8, Capitol Theater
 "Mary Poppins", April 20-May 8, Ohio Theater

Little Theater Off Broadway (<http://www.lto.org>)
 "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest", Grove City Theater,
 April 29- May 21

Ohio Historical Society (<http://www.ohiohistory.org>)
 "Ohio Civil War 150 Kickoff" An 1861 mustering of troops for the
 1st Ohio Infantry featuring Civil War and modern military displays.
 West Lawn of the Ohio Statehouse, April 10, 2:00pm

Saint Joseph Cathedral Music (<http://www.cathedralmusic.org>)
 "Office of Tenebrae", April 22, 8:00pm

**M.C. Escher continued from Page 2**

effort to increase his understanding of the relationship between mathematics and visual art, Escher summarized his findings in a notebook which was later hailed by mathematicians as mathematical research.

Although his conceptual understanding was largely visual, Escher created graphic works of impossible structures such as the Necker Cube, the Penrose Triangle and tessellations. In *Relativity* and *Waterfall*, architectural scenes connect in an infinite loop of staircases or water that can only exist in two-dimensions through optical illusion. In *Sky & Water I* and *II*, light and dark shapes morph to transition the form of a flying bird into that of a swimming fish. In *Drawing Hands*, Escher explored the three-dimensional illusion within the two-dimensional plane. Two hands emerge from a sheet of paper to draw one another into existence.

One of M.C. Escher's most notable works is *Metamorphosis III*. Created in 1967-68 the design was executed as a woodcut and was created to fill all of the walls of a room with the image looping back into itself. The work incorporates geometric shapes, animals, landscape scenery and chessboard pieces.

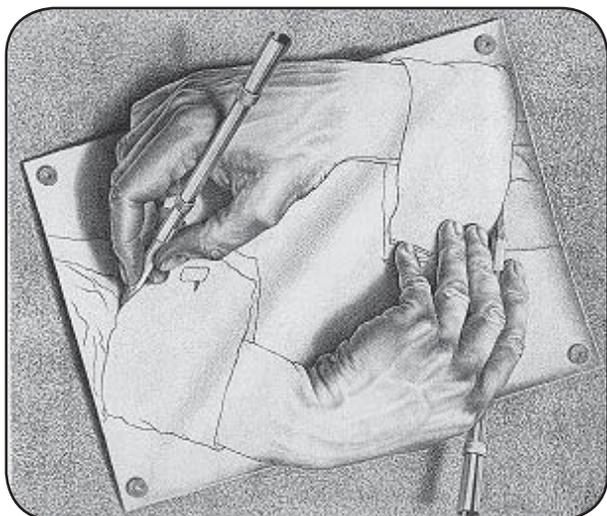
{and beyond}

M.C. Escher continued from Page 3

In the 1950's Escher became a lecturer and later published *Escher on Escher*. In 1972 M.C. Escher died leaving behind hundreds of woodcuts, lithographs and mezzotints.

Through May 29, *M.C. Escher: Impossible Realities* is on view at the Akron Art Museum. The exhibit features 130 works by master printmaker Maurits Cornelis Escher, including woodcuts, lithographs, mezzotints, sculptures, and rare preparatory drawings that provide an in-depth view of the artist's creative processes. Featured in the exhibition are seminal and instantly recognizable works such as *Drawing Hands* and *Reptiles*, as well as the extremely rare lithograph stone for the making of *Flat Worms*.

The exhibition comes from the Herakleidon Museum in Athens, Greece, which houses one of the world's largest collections of Escher works. Akron is one of only two North American venues for this extraordinary loan.



Above: *Drawing Hands* by M.C. Escher, 1948.

The Akron Art Museum (<http://www.akronartmuseum.org>)

"M.C. Escher: Impossible Realities", Through May 29

"Sarah Kabot: Unfolding Space", Through June 11

The Museum of Fine Arts Boston (<http://www.mfa.org>)

"Chihuly: Through the Looking Glass", April 10-August 7

"Millet and Rural France", Through May 30

ICA Boston (<http://www.icaboston.org>)

"Gabriel Kuri: Nobody Needs to Know the Price of Your Saab", Through July 4

"The Record", April 15-September 5

The Cincinnati Art Museum (<http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org>)

"Why We Are Now", Through May 15

The Cleveland Museum of Art (<http://www.clevelandart.org>)

"Contemporary Landscape Photography", Through August 14

The Art Institute of Chicago (<http://www.artic.edu>)

"Real and Imaginary: 3 Latin American Artists", Through May 29

Dayton Art Institute (<http://www.daytonartinstitute.org>)

"Creating the New Century" Through July 10

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (<http://www.lacma.org>)

"Elizabeth Taylor in Iran" Through June 12

Minneapolis Institute of Art (<http://www.artsmia.org>)

"Lost Wax, Found Sculpture", Through April 17

"Beauty & Power: Renaissance & Baroque Bronzes", Through May 15

New Orleans Museum of Art (<http://www.noma.org>)

"The Sound of One Hand", Through April 8

Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC (<http://www.metmuseum.org>)

"Guitar Heroes", Through July 4

"Katrin Sigurdardottir at the Met", Through May 30

Museum of Modern Art, New York (<http://www.moma.org>)

"Picasso: Guitars 1912-1914", Through June 6

"Looking at Music 3.0", Through June 6

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (<http://www.sfmoma.org>)

"How We Became Modern", Through April 17

The Toledo Museum of Art (<http://www.toledomuseum.org>)

"The Baroque World of Fernando Botero", Through June 12

The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. (<http://www.nga.gov>)

"Gauguin: Maker of Myth", February 27-June 5

"Venice: Canaletto and His Rivals", Through May 30

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