

MATHEMATICAL IMAGERY



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The connection between mathematics and art goes back thousands of years. Mathematics has been used in the design of Gothic cathedrals, Rose windows, oriental rugs, mosaics and tilings. Geometric forms were fundamental to the cubists and many abstract expressionists, and award-winning sculptors have used topology as the basis for their pieces. Dutch artist M.C. Escher represented infinity, Möbius bands, tessellations, deformations, reflections, Platonic solids, spirals, symmetry, and the hyperbolic plane in his works.

Mathematicians and artists continue to create stunning works in all media and to explore the visualization of mathematics—origami, computer-generated landscapes, tessellations, fractals, anamorphic art, and more.

A mathematician, like a painter or poet, is a maker of patterns. If his patterns are more permanent than theirs, it is because they are made with ideas.
—G. H. Hardy, *A Mathematician's Apology*

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Jean-Francois Colonna :: A Gateway Between Art and Science



Mathematics plays a very particular role in that we are involved in invention or discovery, the theoretical basis of science for more than 2000 years. It is as long as a mere language in which to formulate a creative thought process that can be used to...
---Jean-Francois Colonna, Centre de Mathématiques
www.lactamme.polytechnique.fr

Gwen L. Fisher :: Woven Beads



Weavers of beads use a needle and thread to weave beads into composite clusters, usually with mathematical precision. Mathematically, many beaded beads can be precisely, the hole through the middle of each bead corresponding to an edge of the polyhedron. The numbers of these "edges" together to form...
--- University, San Luis Obispo, and BeadLab

Carlo Sequin :: Mathematical Images



Since high school I have been fascinated by geometry. I enjoyed constructing the more complicated Platonic solids with ruler and compasses, as well as reading about the 4th dimension. While at Bell Labs in Murray Hill, I was introduced to the field of Computer Graphics, and later developed the Berkeley UniGrafix rendering system, so that I could depict objects more complex than I could build. Since then, the focus of my work has been on computer-aided design (CAD) tools -- for engineers, architects, and artists.
--- Carlo Sequin



"Birds in the Sky" by Carlo Sequin, University of California, Berkeley



Dear Peter,
Here's one of the e-postcards from the site.

Nancy

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GALLERIES & MUSEUMS

Bridges: Mathematical Connections in Art, Music, and Science
M.C. Escher: the Official Website
Images and Mathematics, MathArchives
The Institute for Figuring
Calendar, by Herwig Hauser
The KnotPlot Site
Mathematical Imagery by Jos Leys
Mathematics Museum (Japan)
Visual Mathematics Journal

ARTICLES & RESOURCES

Art & Music, MathArchives
Geometry in Art & Architecture, by Paul Carter (Dartmouth College)
Harmony and Proportion, by John Boyd-Brent
International Society of the Arts, Mathematics and Architecture
Journal of Mathematics and the Arts
Mathematics and Art, the April 2003 Feature Column by Joe Makevich
Maths and Art: the whitestop tour, by Lewis Dartnell
Mathematics and Art, (The theme for Mathematics Awareness Month in 2003)
Viewpoints: Mathematics and Art, by Annalisa Crannell (Franklin & Marshall College) and Marc Frantz (Indiana University)

www.ams.org/mathimagery