

# Year 8 Online Project: Surrealism & Eyes

If you get stuck with any of your work please email  
[k.morrison@sc.coastandvale.academy](mailto:k.morrison@sc.coastandvale.academy)

Please send me photos of your work each week if you can so I can give you  
feedback 😊

# Week by Week plan – Please only complete the following each week...

- Week 1: Week Commencing 18<sup>th</sup> Sept – Escher Artist Study – Slide 3-8
- Week 2: Week Commencing 25<sup>th</sup> Sept –Start Escher Eye Drawing (Focus on Shape) – Slide 9-16
- Week 3: Week Commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct –Finish Escher Eye Drawing (Focus on Tone and Texture) – Slide 9-16
- Week 4: Week Commencing 9<sup>th</sup> Oct –Surrealism Automatism – Slide 17-22

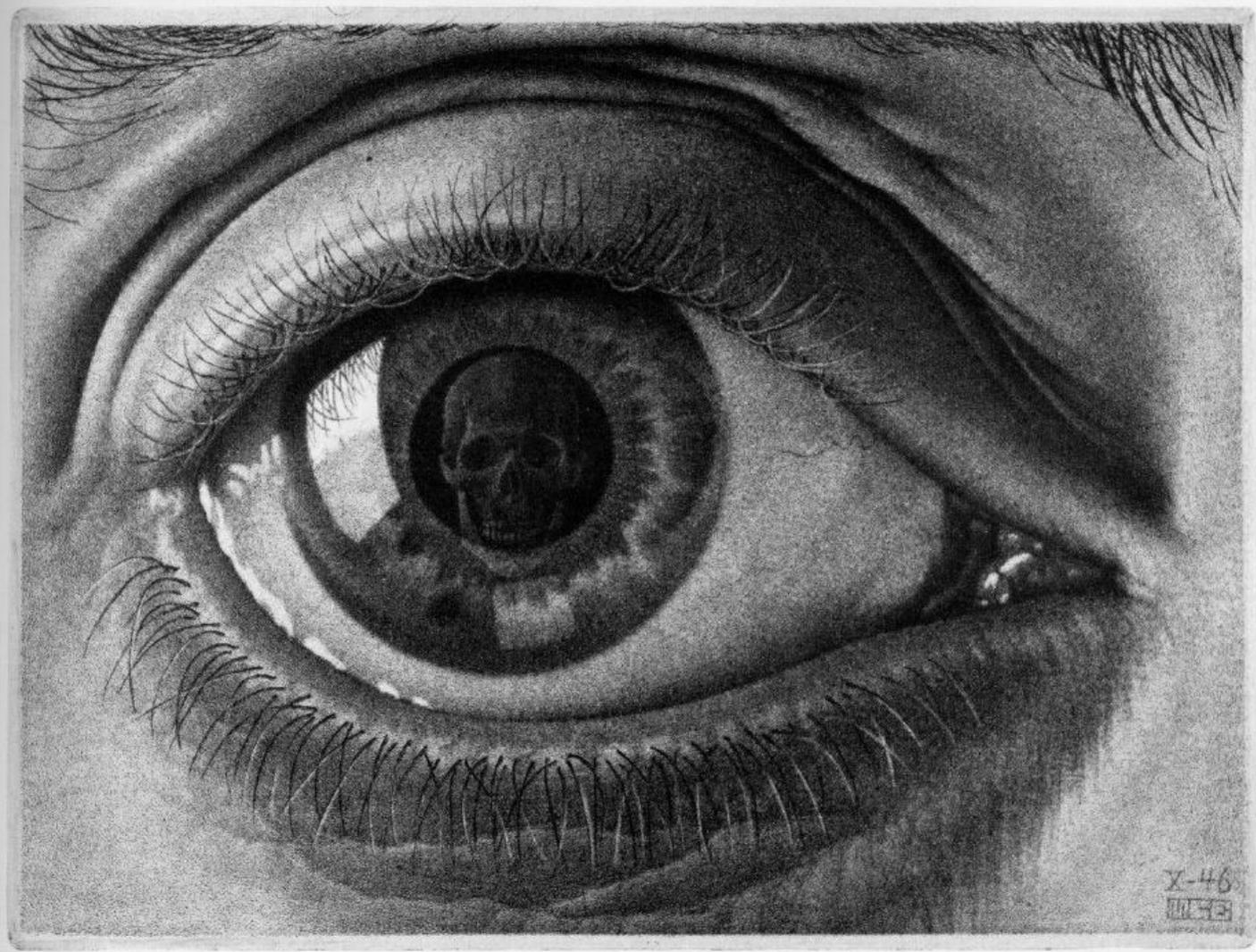
Week 1 Lesson:  
Today you are learning  
about MC Escher and the  
surrealism movement.

Today you will need:

- Your computer
- Either PowerPoint or Paper and a pencil  
(depending on how you choose to  
complete the task)

**Please have your equipment ready before moving on to the next slide.**

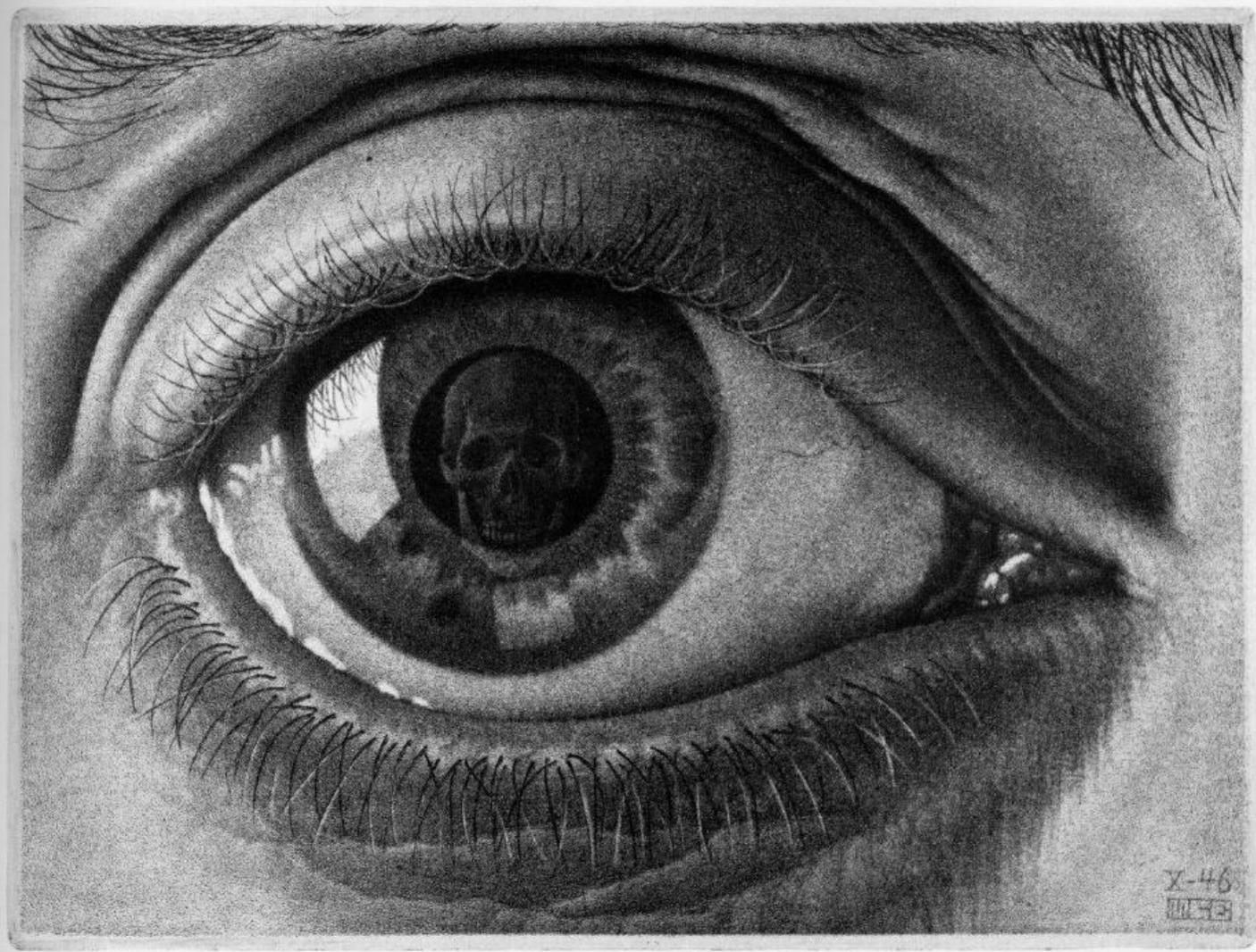
# MC Escher – Eye (1946)



Look carefully at the eye- what can you see inside it?

What could it symbolise?

## MC Escher – Eye (1946)



**This is a drawing of the artist's own eye. In the middle of the eye you should have spotted a reflection of a skull.**

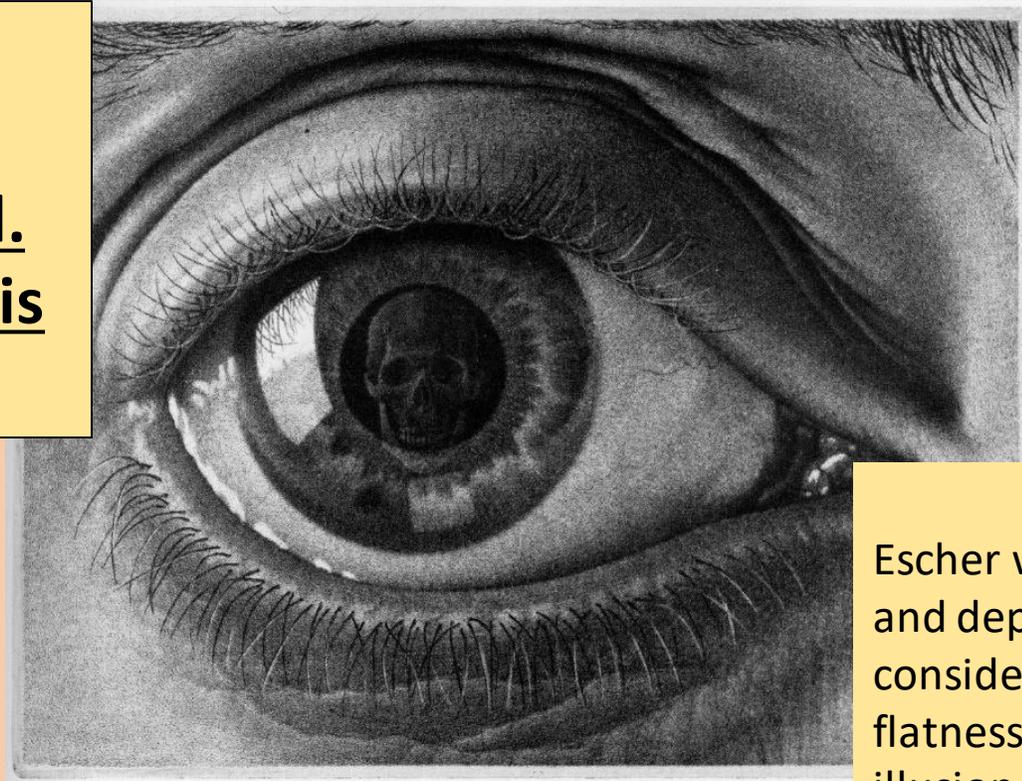
**Skulls are usually a symbol of death. This piece could symbolise the fate of death.**

Symbolism is often used by Surrealist artists. You are going to watch a video about Surrealism on the next slide.

Click on the link below and watch the video on Surrealism:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/what-is/surrealism>

The symbolism of using a skull to represent death in this piece makes it Surreal. He is using images from his mind.



Escher was interested in creating shape and depth – none of his work is flat – He considers the contrast between 2D flatness of a sheet of paper and the illusion of 3D volume that can be created using certain marks.

## More information about Escher

Maurits Cornelis Escher (17 June 1898 – 27 March 1972), usually referred to as M. C. Escher, was a Dutch graphic artist born in Leeuwarden, Netherlands. He is known for his often mathematically inspired woodcuts, lithographs and mezzotints. These feature impossible constructions, explorations of infinity, architecture and tessellations (means "like tiles").

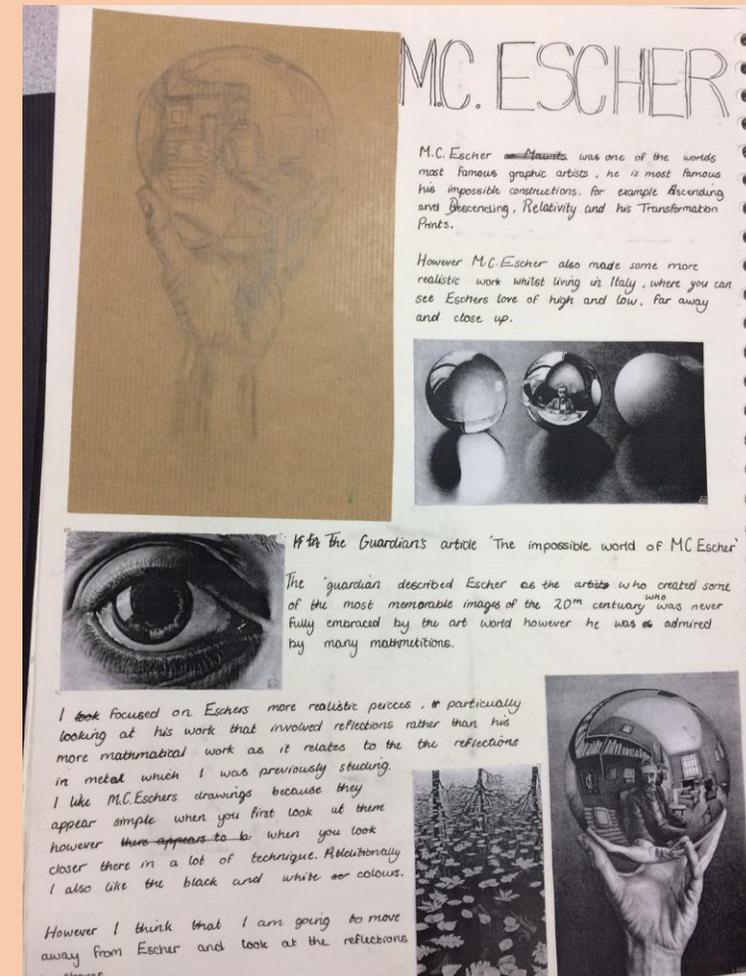
During his life, Escher made 448 lithographs, woodcuts and wood engravings. He did over 2000 drawings and sketches. He also illustrated books, designed tapestries, postage stamps and murals.

Escher was interested in different ways of making art, he used tile-like repeated patterns in many of his paintings. Early in his career he drew inspirations of nature: he studied art, landscapes and insects. Some of Escher's most famous drawings include: *Drawing hands*, *Relativity* and *Flying Fish*. Most of his works were related to maths.

MC Escher was a Surrealism artist. Surrealism began as an artistic movement that was said as a way to find truth in the world through the subconscious mind and dreams, rather than logical thought. The movement included many artists, poets and writers who expressed their theories. Surrealism images | often explore the subconscious areas of the mind and the artwork often made little sense as it usually tried to show a dream or random intertwining thoughts.

# Today's task:

- Today I would like you to create a research page on MC Escher and Surrealism. You can use the information on the PowerPoint and from the Surrealism video, as well as information from the internet.
- Your research should be one A4 page. It can either be created on PowerPoint or if you prefer you can create it on paper as a poster.
- If you want you can include images of his work as well as text. You do not have to create a drawing of his work as you will be doing that next lesson. Be as creative as you can!



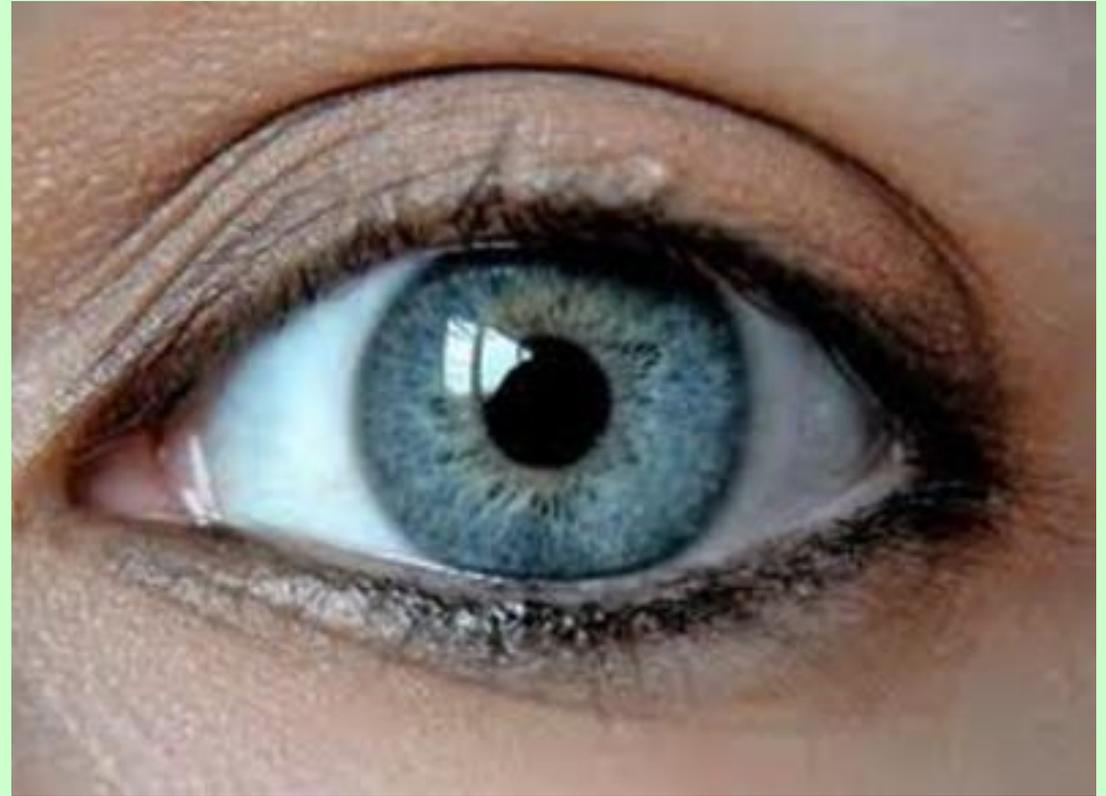
Week 2 and 3 Lesson:  
Today and next lesson you are using the knowledge you acquired about MC Escher and creating a copy of his eye.

**Today you will need:**

- Paper (Sketching paper if you have it)
- Pencil
- Rubber, Sharpener

**Please have your equipment ready before moving on to the next slide.**

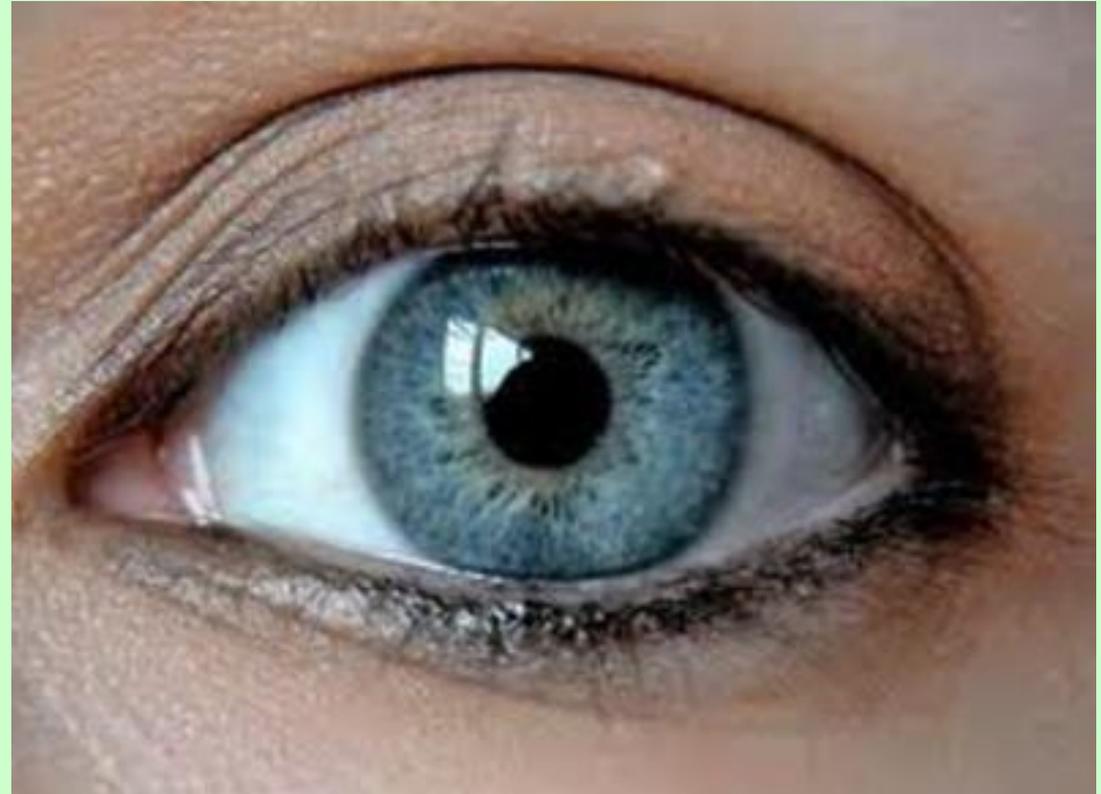
**Think carefully about the following:**  
**What shape is the human eye?**  
**What shape is the iris and pupil?**  
**Where can you see the lightest part**  
**of the eye?**



**-The shape of the human eye should appear more like a lemon rather than a rugby ball!**

**-The iris and pupil are both circle (you cannot always see all of the iris as it may be covered by the eyelid)**

**The lightest part of the eye is the eye ball and the darkest is the pupil.**



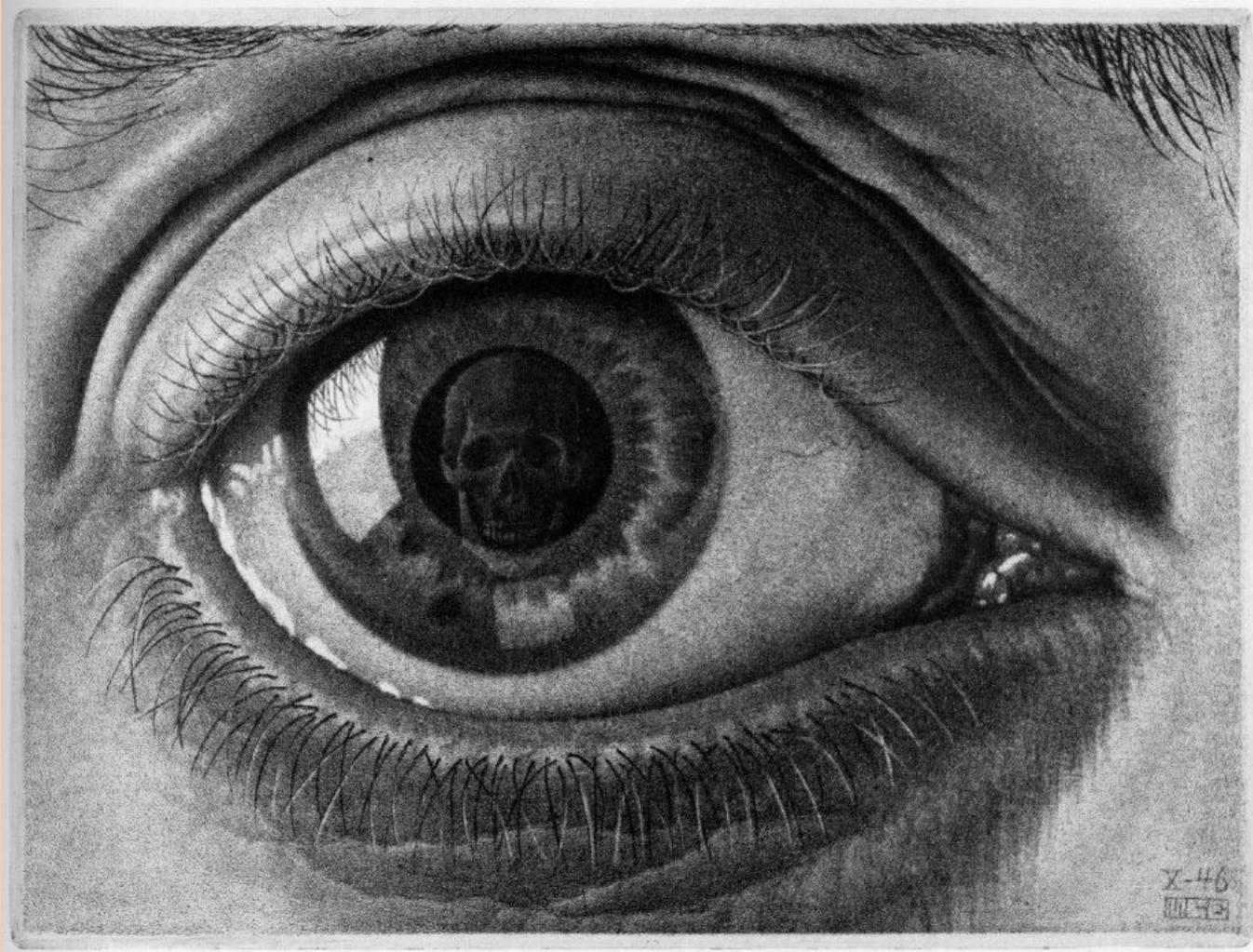
# Task 1: Tonal Ladder

**To prepare to create a copy of Escher's eye I would like you to create a tonal ladder with 5 different tones ranging from dark to light.**



Really take care with the pressure you apply to each section of the ladder, this will effect the shade you create.

Task 2: Watch the video demonstration on the next slide thinking carefully about the following:



**Formal elements:**

**Tone**

**Texture**

**Shape**

**Colour**

**Line**

**Pattern**

**Form**

# You are now going to draw Escher's eye -This task should take 2 lessons – if it only takes you 1 hour it is rushed!

Watch the link step by step (just remember you are working in pencil)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmtS-igiTYg>

1. Sketch the eye outline lightly. You may need to rub this out several times.
2. Use your tonal ladder to build up the different tones. Have Escher's eye in front of you so you can see where the highlights and shadows are.
3. Remember the darkest part of the eye is the pupil and the lightest part is the eyeball. You can use your rubber to rub the skull back in once you have shaded the pupil.
4. Think about texture and mark making in the iris to create depth and make it look realistic – Good Luck 😊

# Escher Eye Pencil

## Yellow

You have lightly sketched the outline and applied some tone to your work.

## Green

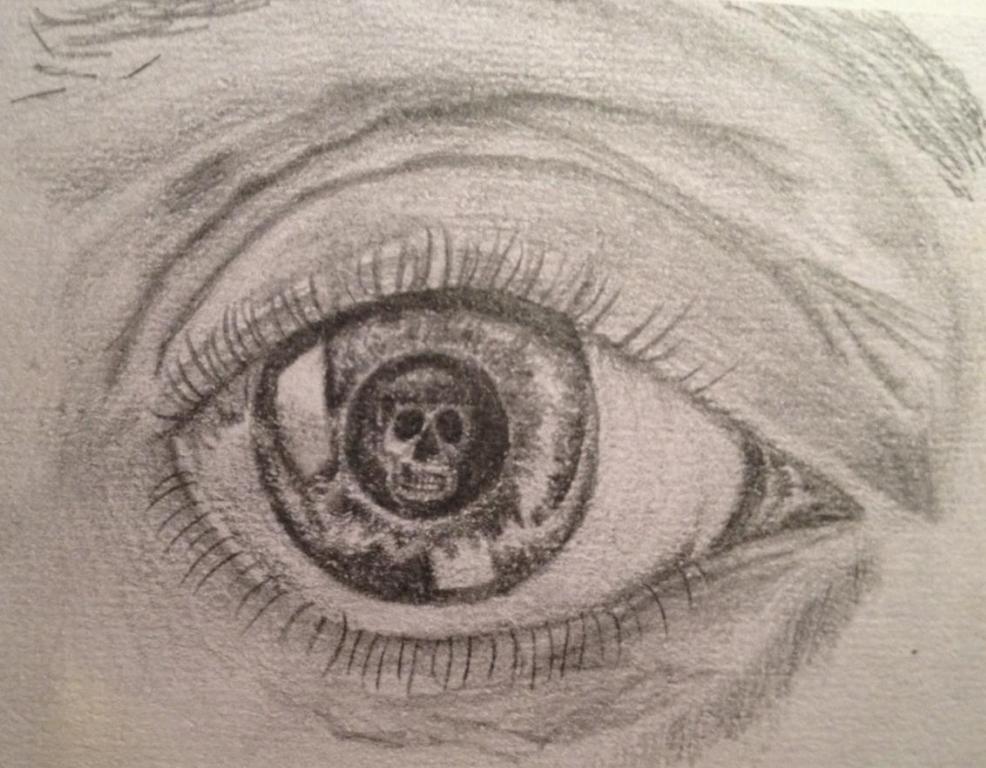
You have accurately sketched the outline and applied a range of tone to your work.

## Blue

You have done all of the above and also considered direction of line and mark making.

## Pink

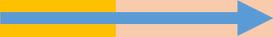
You have done all of the above confidently and skillfully.



# Drawing the human eye – Self Assessment

**Now have you completed your drawing of an eye it is time to assess what you have done well and how you could improve your work.**

Consider the key words we learnt about drawing techniques earlier. Can you improve any of these elements of your work?



**Tone**  
**Texture**  
**Shape**  
**Colour**  
**Line**  
**Pattern**  
**Form**

Week 4 Lesson:  
Today you are learning  
about Automatism (A type of  
Surrealism)

Today you will need:

- Paper (Sketching paper if you have it)
- Pencil
- Rubber, Sharpener
- Pen

**Please have your equipment ready before moving on to the next slide.**

# Recap:

Please re watch the video from lesson 1 about Surrealism

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/what-is/surrealism>

What is the difference between conscious Surrealism and Automatism?



# Recap: Two Types of Surrealism



Automatism:  
Creating Art without thinking  
(Today's Focus)



Conscious Concept  
Thinking about how you can  
combine images to give your  
art a different meaning  
(Like Escher's Eye)

## AUTOMATISM In Surrealism By Joan Miro

Automatism is a technique in art when you create an artwork without thinking, intuitively and subconsciously.

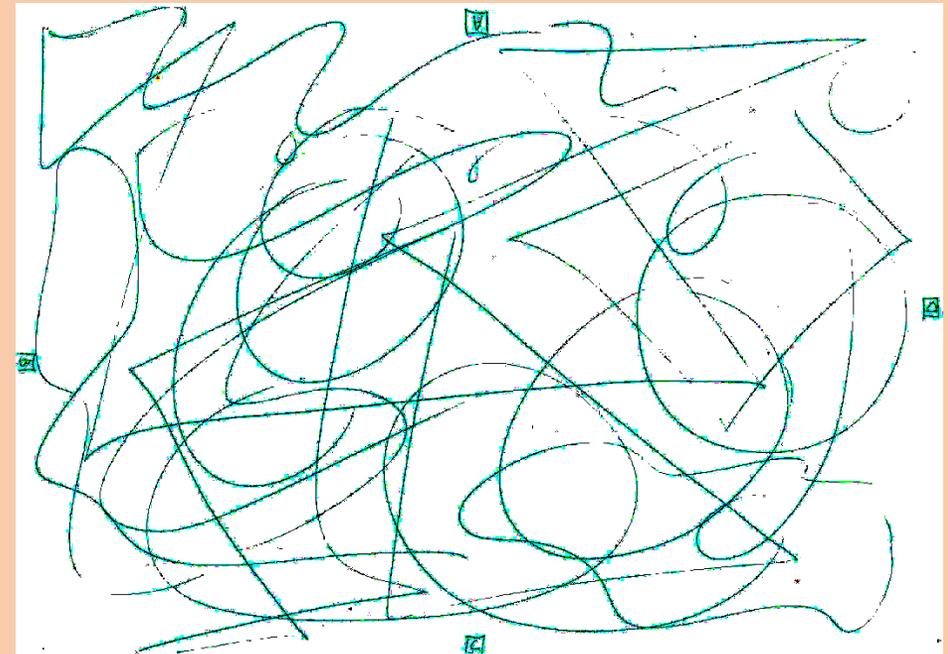
Joan Miro did this to start her artwork. She would paint lines and shapes in this way (sub-consciously) to create a starting point for the conscious development of her work later, by looking at the lines and shapes to see what they could be made into.

Today's task: Follow the steps to create your own Automatism Surrealist work!

1. – Use a pen... Close your eyes and scribble over your page like this



2. Label each of the four sides of your paper  
A, B, C, D



Today's task: Follow the steps to create your own Automatism Surrealist work!

3. Look at your paper from different angles (turn it around) - do any of your scribbles remind you of anything? These images have been created from within the scribbles like the artist Joan Miro

This is how you use your subconscious mind!

