



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 18, 2014

MEDIA CONTACT
Emily Kowalski | (919) 664-6795 | ekowalski@ncartmuseum.org

N.C. Museum of Art Announces Fall 2015 Exhibitions Featuring Rare Manuscript by Leonardo da Vinci and an M. C. Escher Retrospective

Raleigh, N.C.—The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) announces two exhibitions opening in October 2015: *Leonardo da Vinci's Codex Leicester and the Power of Observation* and *The Worlds of M. C. Escher: Nature, Science, and Imagination*. The *Codex Leicester*—the only manuscript by Leonardo da Vinci in North America—will travel to the NCMA as part of a national tour to three museums. *The Worlds of M. C. Escher* will feature approximately 150 drawings, woodcuts, wood engravings, lithographs, mezzotints, and watercolors from Escher's entire career.

"This is going to be an exciting fall at the Museum—an incredibly rare opportunity for our visitors to see not only centuries-old writings and sketches by Leonardo da Vinci, but also the work of M. C. Escher, another observer of nature and a perfect modern counterpart to da Vinci," says NCMA Director Lawrence J. Wheeler. "These exhibitions will thrill art lovers and science lovers alike, and we hope that all visitors leave with a piqued curiosity, an ignited imagination, and a desire to more closely observe the world around them."

***Leonardo da Vinci's Codex Leicester and the Power of Observation* October 31, 2015–January 17, 2016**

The *Codex Leicester*, a 500-year-old notebook from inventor, scientist, and artist Leonardo da Vinci, is composed of 36 folios, each written on the front and back and illustrated with sketches of the topics Leonardo is discussing. It is the only manuscript by da Vinci in North America. The notes, written in his distinctive "mirror writing," provide a glimpse into the artist's scientific mind, revealing his intellectual curiosity and observations on nature. The *Codex Leicester* focuses on his thoughts and beliefs about water, astronomy, light, and mechanics.

An interactive display will allow visitors to explore a translation of the text on computer screens. Additionally, modern and contemporary works that complement the themes and ideas revealed in the *Codex Leicester* will be on view.

The *Codex Leicester* is traveling to three museums, including the NCMA, as part of a limited national tour. It will be on view at the Phoenix Art Museum from January 24, 2015, to April 12, 2015; then at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts from June 21, 2015, to September 3, 2015; and finally at the NCMA from October 31, 2015, to January 17, 2016.

***The Worlds of M. C. Escher: Nature, Science, and Imagination* October 17, 2015–January 17, 2016**

Comprising approximately 150 woodcuts, lithographs, wood engravings, and mezzotints, as well as numerous drawings, watercolors, woodblocks, and lithographic stones never before exhibited, *The Worlds of M. C. Escher* will survey Escher's entire career, from his earliest print to his final masterpiece. The exhibition will highlight Escher's explorations of nature, mathematics, science, and the realm of his imagination. Escher's best-known prints will be on view, as well as his lesser-known portraits and Italian landscapes. It will be the most comprehensive Escher exhibition ever presented in the United States.

The works will be borrowed from leading Escher collections, including those at the National Gallery of Art, the Boston Public Library, and the National Gallery of Canada.

The Worlds of M. C. Escher: Nature, Science, and Imagination

October 17, 2015–January 17, 2016

East Building, Level B, Meymandi Exhibition Gallery

Ticket prices (joint ticket with *Leonardo da Vinci's Codex Leicester and the Power of Observation*):

\$18 Adults

\$15 Seniors, military, groups of 10+, college students with current ID

\$12 Youth 7–18

Free for Museum members, children 6 and under

(continued)

Leonardo da Vinci's Codex Leicester and the Power of Observation

October 31, 2015–January 17, 2016

East Building, Level B, Gallery 2

See above for price of joint ticket with *The Worlds of M. C. Escher*.

About the Exhibitions

The *Codex Leicester* is on loan from Bill Gates. This exhibition is made possible, in part, by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources; the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc.; and the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment for Educational Exhibitions. Research for this exhibition was made possible by Ann and Jim Goodnight/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fund for Curatorial and Conservation Research and Travel.

The Worlds of M. C. Escher is organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art.

- Presenting Sponsor: Duke Energy
- Participating Sponsor: Lord Corporation

This exhibition is also made possible, in part, by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources; the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc.; and the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment for Educational Exhibitions. Research for this exhibition was made possible by Ann and Jim Goodnight/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fund for Curatorial and Conservation Research and Travel.

###

About the North Carolina Museum of Art

The North Carolina Museum of Art's permanent collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making the institution one of the premier art museums in the South. The Museum's collection provides educational, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The 164-acre Museum Park showcases the connection between art and nature through site-specific works of environmental art. The Museum offers changing national touring exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts.

The Museum opened West Building, home to the permanent collection, in 2010. The North Carolina Museum of Art, Lawrence J. Wheeler, director, is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, Pat McCrory, governor, and an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, Susan Kluttz, secretary.