

Abstract: Next to ‘nature’, ‘mathematics’ appeared to be a very interesting source of inspiration for the art. Maybe the first artists who have shown interest in the use of mathematics for the arts are the painters from the Renaissance. Besides the development of the theory of perspective artists also showed interest in the beauty of mathematical objects, like the Platonic and Archimedean solids. To name a few examples: Leonardo da Vinci made the illustrations of the polyhedra in Luca Pacioli’s book ‘Divina Proportione’. And it was Albrecht Dürer who published the nets of several polyhedra in his book ‘Unterweissung der Messung’. These artistic works can be seen as visualization of mathematical ideas, instead of pure art. But we also see works of art in which a mathematical idea is inspirational starting point for the artist. Maybe the most well-known artist in this sense is M.C. Escher. In my work I try to explore both ways, although I have to admit that the final focus always is on the art. Art inspired by mathematics.

Short Bio: Rinus Roelofs is a mathematician and artist based in Netherlands. He studied Applied Mathematics at the Technical University of Enschede, and took a degree from the Enschede Art Academy with a specialization in sculpture. <http://www.rinusroelofs.nl/>