



### NEWS RELEASE

March 3, 2010

#### **Art Inspired by Mathematics: Tessellations, Fractals and Geometric Constructions – at the Public Library**

Artist Fred Ventura will exhibit mathematical art at the Santa Maria Public Library for the month of March in celebration of PI DAY (March 14<sup>th</sup>). As a special treat, please join us on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in Shepard Hall when Mr. Ventura will discuss the important role that mathematics has played throughout art history.

From our earliest examples of artistic expression, mathematics has always played an important role. The Greek philosopher, Pythagoras was especially interested in the Golden Section. He proved that it was the basis for the proportions of the human figure and showed that the human body is built with each part in a definite Golden Proportion to all the other parts. Pythagoras' discoveries of the proportions of the human figure had a tremendous effect on Greek art. Every part of their major buildings, down to the smallest detail of decoration, was constructed using this proportion.

Later, the discovery of perspective led to an explosion of artistic expression during the Renaissance. And more recently modern art was heavily influenced by mathematics; for example, consider the work of Piet Mondrian or M.C. Escher.

In this presentation Mr. Ventura will discuss and show many examples of tessellations, fractals and geometric constructions.

Following the presentation participants will have an opportunity to create their own works of art on paper using crayons and markers. This special event is open to adults and students ages 10 and above. A FREE ticket is required for this event. Tickets are available in the Children's Room of the Library.

Patrons can come to the Library to pick tickets up, OR they may call once tickets become available to reserve them, but they must be picked up before closing of the same day. A maximum of six (6) tickets can be reserved, but reservations can only be made once. Tickets not picked up will be returned to available status the following day.

Questions may be directed to Cultural Events Coordinator Deborah Hildinger at the Santa Maria Public Library, 925-0951 ext 117.

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