BRIDGES Mathematical Connections in Art, Music, and Science

The 3D Illusion of 2D Regular Tessellations

Imameddin Amiraslanov Institute of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry Academy of Science, Husein Javid Avenu 31, Baku, Azerbaijan <u>imam@gate.sinica.edu.tw</u>

For the last several decades the Escher-like symmetry patterns have accupied wide area in the creative art. Strong geometrical basis, absence backgraund, modulity, regularity, using more and more new mathematical ideas, etc., have opened new aestetic and applied avenues for this style. I would like to emphasize one more peculiarity them, namely the 3D illusions of 2D regular tessellations.

This illusion is based on viewing with two eyes. At focusing the eyes as shown in *pic.1* we will see: a) normal;



In b) and c) the object seem to be further awey. (Note that the filled circles represent the real object, that the while the hollow circles are the respective false imiges)



For instance in $pic.2a^*$ we can easily prove that. Pic.2b and pic.2c show the method of making additional periods, where we can see analogical illusions simultaneously at several different planes from the looker. In the case of color pictures $(pic.3)^{**}$, as a result from the summation of existing colors we will observe new colors, which are absent in the original picture. May be this effect is one of the reasons of the high attractivity of medival architectural buldings, carpets, etc. decorated with geometrical ornaments.







b)







Pic.2



Pic.2 created by Imameddin Amiraslanov, Baku, Azerbaijan Pic.3 created by Jamal Jamalov, Baku, Azerbaijan *

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