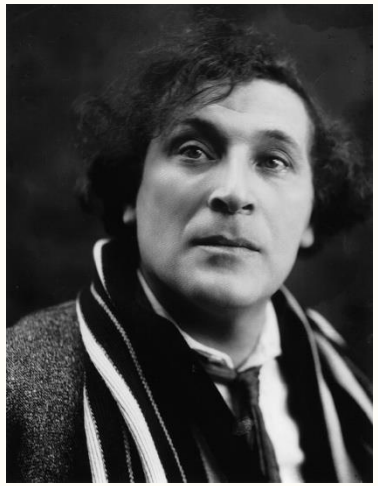
Artist Resources – Marc Chagall (Russian-French, 1887-1985)

Chagall at the Tate | Chagall at the Guggenheim | Chagall at MoMA



Chagall, c. 1920
Photograph: Pierre Choumoff

Chagall: Love, War, and Exile was on view at The Jewish Museum in New York in 2013. Watch a PBS Curator's Choice video about the exhibition and read a review in CAA Reviews.

The Art Institute of Chicago installed *Chagall Homecoming* in 2016, after the artist's painting, *White Crucifixion* (1938) was in Florence for the Palazzo Strozzi's exhibition *Divine Beauty from Van Gogh to Chagall and Fontana*. Before returning to Chicago, the painting was moved to the Baptistery of Saint John for a private viewing with Pope Francis, who has often proclaimed this to be his favorite painting.

In 2017, *Chagall: Fantasies for the Stage* was on view at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Take a video tour of the exhibition on YouTube.

Museum Berggruen in Berlin installed *Marc Chagall: The Modernity of Decorativeness* in 2017. His works were paired with photographs by Ulrike Kolb, who revisited many of Chagall's favorite locations to paint.

Chagall: The Breakthrough Years, 1911-1919 traveled to both Guggenheim Bilbao and to the Kunstmuseum Basel in 2017-2018.

The Polk Museum of Art in Florida launched *Chagall: Stories into Dreams* in 2018. Read the catalogue essay and watch a discussion with Derek Menchan, Professor of Humanities, Philosophy, and Music at Polk State College.

In 2018, *Chagall, Lissitzky, Malevich: The Russian Avant-Garde in Vitebsk, 1918-1922* was on view at The Jewish Museum in New York. Read a review in the New York Times. The exhibition then traveled to the Centre Pompidou.

In 2022, Chagall's work was on view internationally in many groundbreaking exhibitions. *Marc Chagall: Color & Magic* was on view at the CAFA Art Museum in Beijing, *Chagall* was at the National Museum in Warsaw, and *Marc Chagall: World in Turmoil* traveled to both the Henie Onstad Art Center in Norway and SCHIRN Kunsthalle in Frankfurt.

Chagall, Matisse, Miró: Made in Paris was installed at Museum Folkwang Essen in 2023, focusing on Paris as an art center for 130 years.

The Centre Pompidou opened the exhibition *Chagall at Work: Drawings, Ceramics and Sculptures 1945-1970* in 2023. Read a review in Sortir a Paris.

In 2024, Fundacion MAPFRE in Madrid installed *Chagall: A Cry for Freedom*.



Chagall in the studio, c. 1942
Photograph: Pix/Michael Ochs Archives

Marc Chagall (Russian-French, 1887-1985)
Le songe du Roi David, 1966
Oil, tempera, and sawdust on canvas

Private Collection; L2026:41.5

Marc Chagall was born in Belarus to a Hassidic Jewish family and spent much of his early life escaping persecution and war. After World War II, the artist relocated to France and embarked upon a series of paintings on religious subjects called *Le Message Biblique.* **Le songe du Roi David (King David's Dream)** depicts the Hebrew Bible king watching over a wedding celebration and several other vignettes. Chagall was inspired by the joyful and vibrant religious celebrations of his youth, working to capture shared human experience rather than a particular doctrine. Chagall hoped that people of all backgrounds could find "a certain peace… a certain spirituality, a religiosity, a meaning to life." He explained: "To my way of thinking, these paintings do not illustrate the dream of a single people, but that of mankind."

On view August 12 – November 15, 2026





Marc Chagall (Russian-French, 1887-1985)
La nappe mauve, 1972
Oil on canvas

Private Collection; L2026:47.1

Marc Chagall was born in Belarus under the Russian Empire and was forced to move between Vitebsk, Moscow, Paris, and New York to escape the tumultuous wars of the early 20th century. In 1948, he settled in southern France, where he worked to recapture peace and process the grief of his youth. **La nappe mauve** (The Mauve Tablecloth) is a complex still-life painting from Chagall's late career. The vibrant flowers reflect abundance and joy, while ghostly figures float in a background village that seems to recall the skyline of Vitebsk. As the artist once said: "You could wonder for hours what flowers mean, but for me, they're life itself, in all its happy brilliance. We couldn't do without flowers. Flowers help you forget life's tragedies."

On view July 7 – October 2, 2026

Marc Chagall (Russian-French, 1887-1985)
Les Mariés (or Les Deux Bouquets), 1960
Oil on canvas

Private Collection; L2024:49.1

Born in Belarus under the rule of the Russian Empire, Marc Chagall moved between Vitebsk, Moscow, Paris, and New York to escape the tumultuous wars of the 20th century. In 1915, the artist married Bella Rosenfeld and began to paint compositions with floating, happily married couples. When Bella suddenly died in 1944, Chagall continued to paint couples with a female figure wearing a ghostly wedding dress or white veil to evoke Bella's spirit. **Les Mariés (or Les Deux Bouquets)** depicts the couple with bright, colorful flowers and a romantic table setting in a dreamy night scene. To Chagall, such flowers celebrate the life he shared with Bella and reflect his love for his adopted country of France.

On view August 7 – November 10, 2024

