

[marcchagall.com](https://marcchagall.com)

Launch of the official website  
devoted to the artist Marc Chagall

March 2023

A project by the  
Association des Amis de Marc Chagall

Press kit



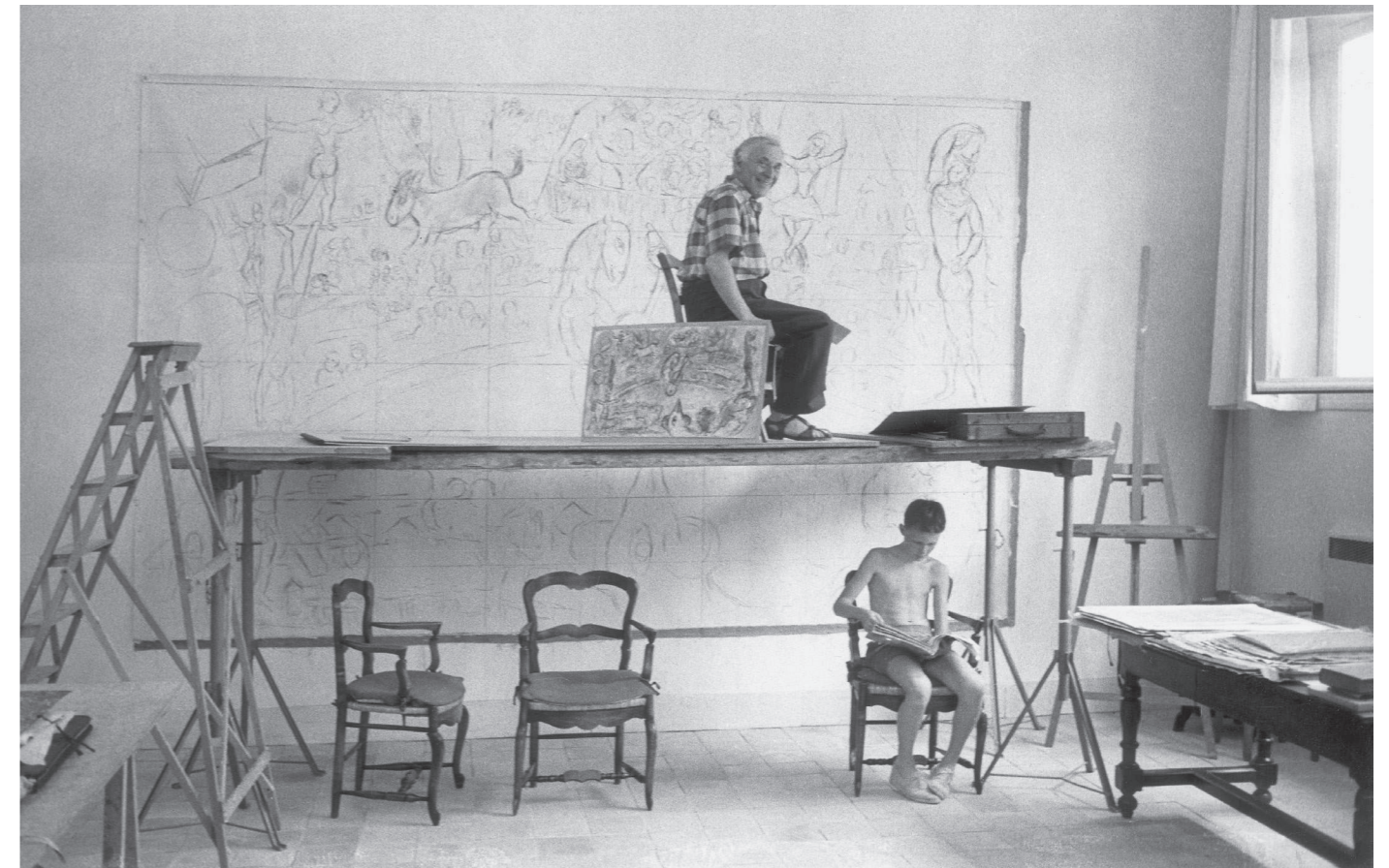
Marcchagall.com, the official website devoted to Marc Chagall and the promotion and understanding of his work, will be available online in March. As the first initiative dedicated to the artist on such a large scale, the website will provide a comprehensive overview of Marc Chagall's creation and enables to discover or rediscover the work of this major twentieth-century artist.

A selection of works, a look back over Marc Chagall's different studios, archival documents, a presentation of the artist's different techniques... : this original project, led by the Association des Amis de Marc Chagall, in partnership with the Réunion des Musées Nationaux, the Institut national de l'audiovisuel and the Musée national Marc Chagall in Nice, invites visitors to discover the scope, diversity and richness of the artist's work, offering new perspectives on his various explorations.

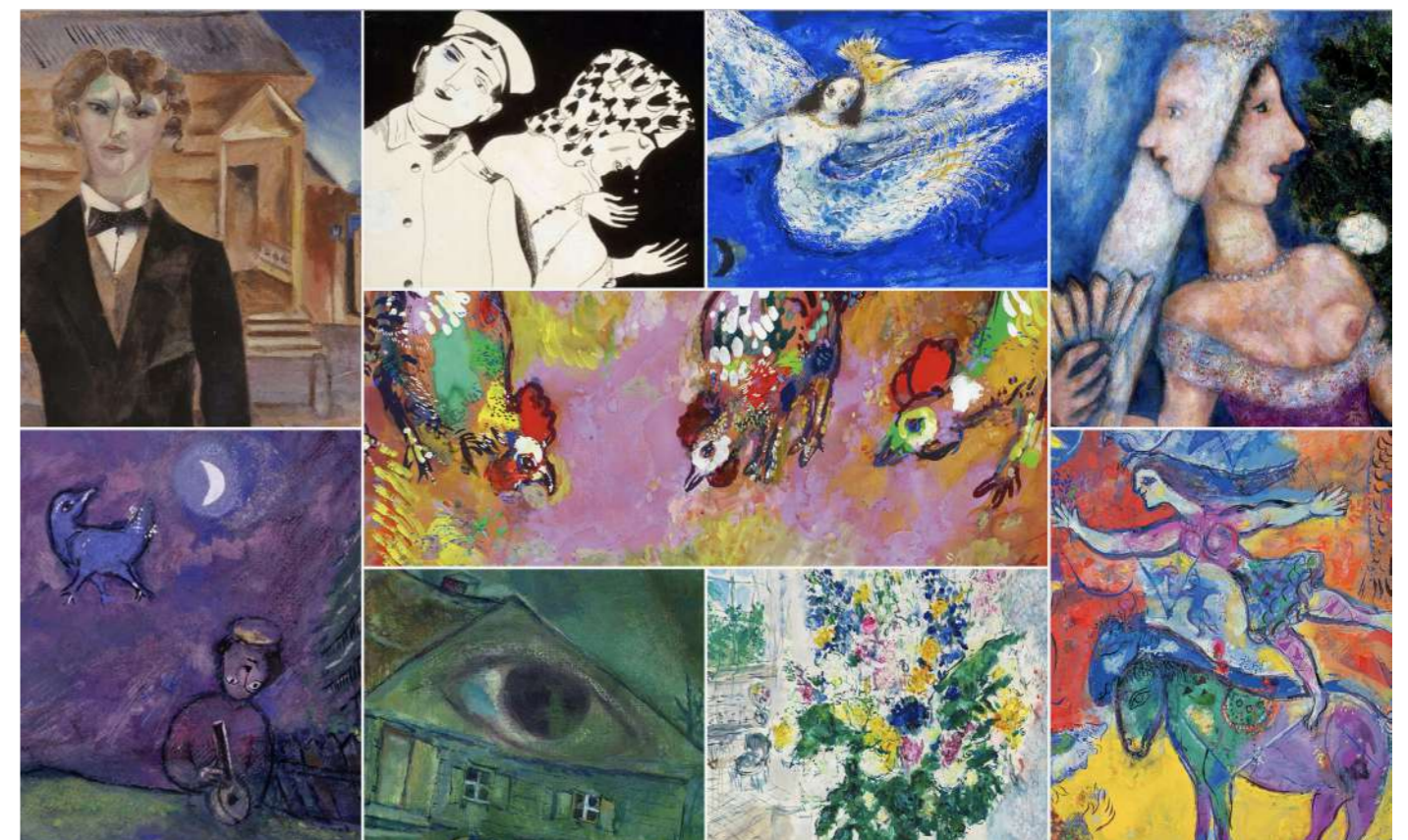
At the heart of the project is the online catalogue raisonné, a free scientific tool for researchers, professionals and art lovers. The catalogue raisonné, directed by Ambre Gauthier, is organised by techniques and aims to list the works created by the artist throughout his career. The first volume about sculptures will be published online in March 2023.

2023 will also be marked by many events celebrating the artist Marc Chagall, including the immersive exhibition "Chagall: Paris-New York" at the Atelier des Lumières in Paris, the "Chagall: Politique" exhibition at La Piscine - Musée d'art et d'histoire André Diligent de Roubaix, as well as the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Musée national Marc Chagall in Nice.

*"This innovative platform devoted to Marc Chagall offers visitors a wealth of enriching discoveries, imbued as much by the artist's rigour, which is illustrated by each composition, as by the continually renewed and experimented imperative to give substance to freedom!"*  
 — Meret Meyer



Marc Chagall, studio of the villa Les Collines, Vence, 1959 © Luc Fournol / Photo12.



© DR, Marc and Ida Chagall Archives, Paris.



## The online catalogue raisonné

As an online scientific project, the catalogue raisonné aims to list all the works created by the artist throughout his career, from 1906 to 1985.

The catalogue is a real scientific tool for researchers, professionals and art lovers, resulting from extensive research work based on archives, the careful study of correspondence, administrative documents and photographic albums of works. This research is being conducted by the Association des Amis de Marc Chagall, with the Archives Marc et Ida Chagall and the consultation of the Comité Marc Chagall, as an extension of the first selective census work carried out by Franz Meyer, which was published in 1961.

### Publication of the first volume devoted to sculptures

The first volume will be published for the launch of the website in March 2023. Devoted to the sculptures of Marc Chagall, it will contain 97 sculptures created between 1952 and 1983. The richly illustrated catalogue raisonné of the sculptures has benefited from a new photographic campaign which produced high-quality images which highlight the beauty of the materials and the works' richness of detail. The inclusion of videos about some of the artworks enables an unprecedented 3D immersion into the sculptures made by Marc Chagall.

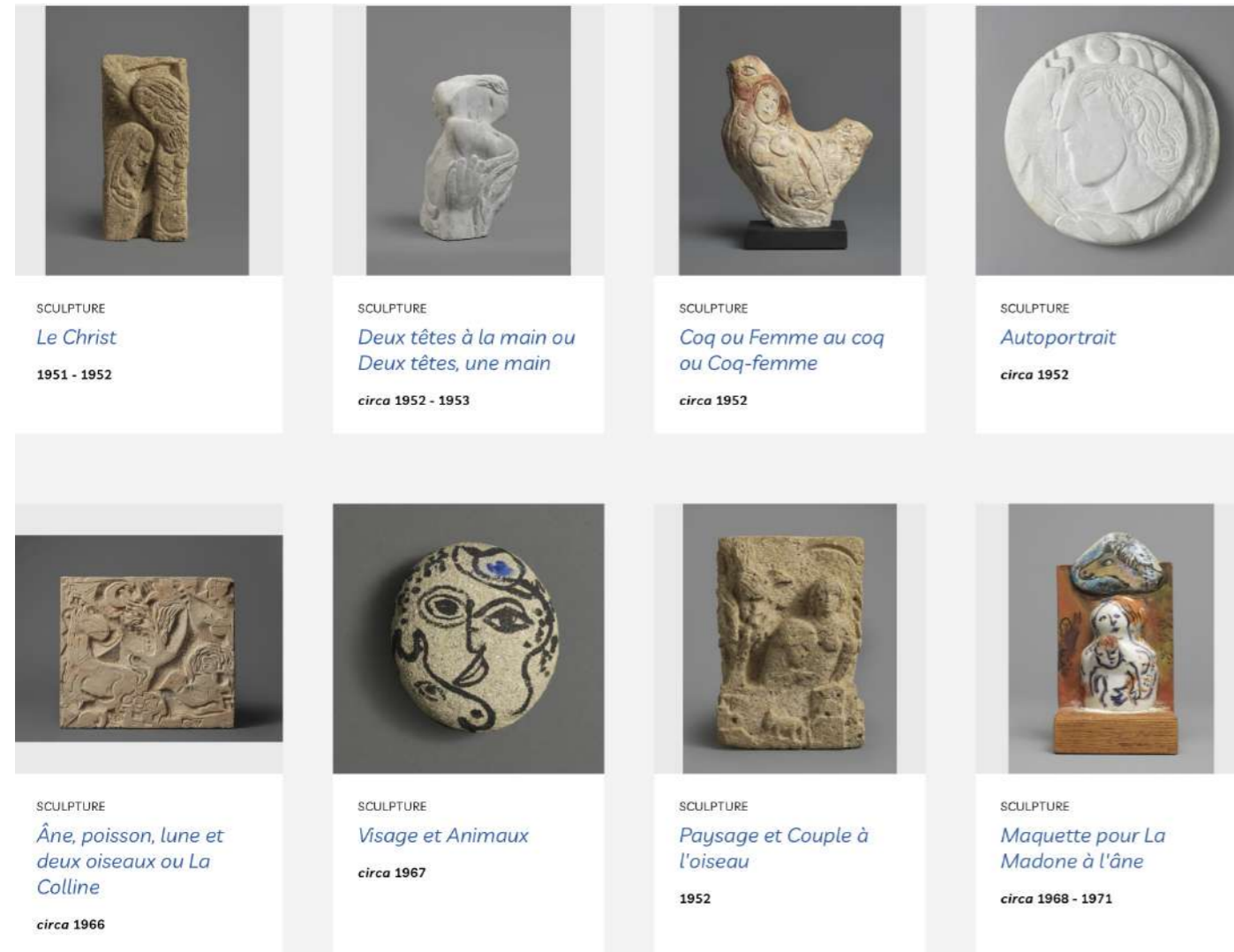
The second volume, scheduled for 2024, will be devoted to the artist's ceramics.

*“In the South, Marc Chagall took the temperature of his art with his “thermometer-eye,” plunging his hands into the earth and confronting the facets of the stones he tried to tame, in search of materials which would enable him to anchor himself in his host country whilst speaking to his imagination by their intrinsic qualities. “Chatting with the clouds” and reading their shapes by lifting his head up to the sky, discerning the contours of dancing figures in the cavities of Jerusalem stone, examining the Golems coming to life in the flow of clay: such are the many imaginary games which we can imagine him indulging in with passion and humour.”*  
— Ambre Gauthier



## A professional research tool

The search engine designed by the team of the Association des Amis de Marc Chagall and the Société Reciproque, a specific feature of the online catalogue raisonné of Marc Chagall, offers high precision research possibilities. Designed and developed based on the model of museum search engines, it has been specifically perfected to enable the catalogue raisonné to be searched in a precise and intuitive way. Users can carry out simple searches for works (by title, date or technique) or more specific ones (exhibitions, provenances), whilst combining approaches and searching amongst the different techniques of the catalogue raisonné simultaneously. This powerful tool, employing the latest technological developments at the service of research and art history, will allow for a better knowledge of Marc Chagall's work.





## Discovery of Marc Chagall's body of work

In parallel to this scientific approach, the “Discovery” section of the website allows users to navigate through selections of works thanks to different approaches: thematic, visual, sensory and documentary. This project invites the visitor to discover the diversity of the artist's techniques and the richness of Chagall's work.

### Themes



The website, which offers a real immersion into the artist's universe, invites audiences to explore the themes which are most present in the artist's work: self-portrait, love, dream, sacred, flowers, circus, politics, music and animals.

The emblematic and lesser-known works are revealed in the prism of these main themes, which are explained in the texts in the section.

### Materials



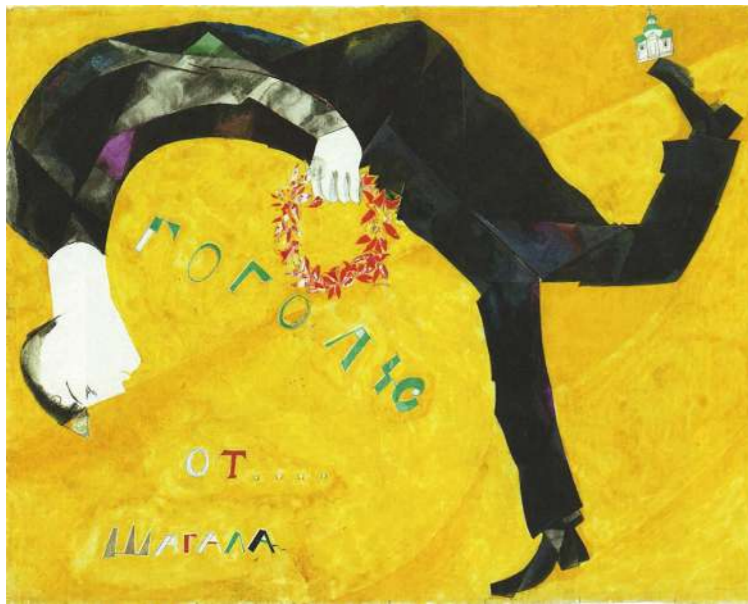
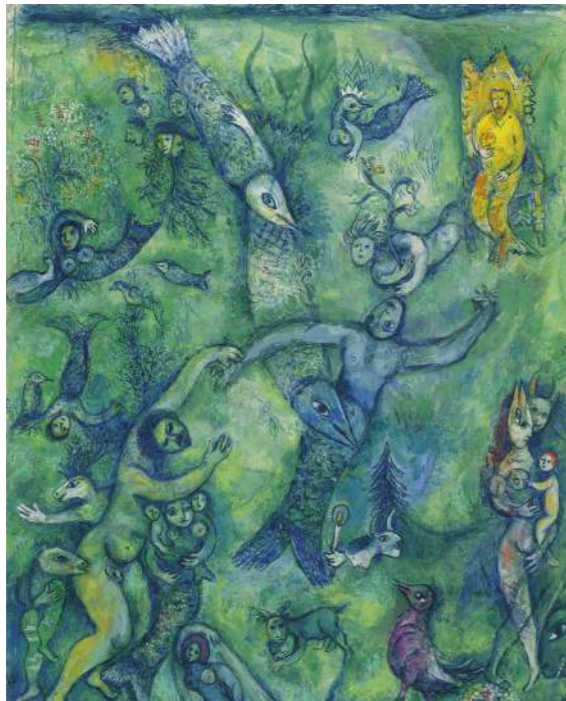
“We must be humble before matter, submissive!” declared the artist.

From the outset, the section devoted to materials recalls the importance that Chagall gave to matter. Clay, pigment, glass, textile, stone and paper were amongst the main materials used by Chagall, who experimented with various techniques: painting, drawing, ceramics, sculpture, stained glass, mosaic and tapestry.

By moving away from the traditional classification of art history, which favours media and techniques, this more sensorial approach enables us to dive into the components and textures of Chagall's works: the warmth of red clay, the fine grain of white marbles, the mysterious light of engraved glass panels, the shimmering intensity of vermillion red, the softness of silk and the mother-of-pearl quality of Japanese paper. The very high-definition visuals enable a close examination of the details of the works, offering an unexpected discovery of their materiality.



## Colours



“Colour must be penetrating, like walking on a thick carpet,” Marc Chagall said.

Conceived as a journey through colour in the artist’s work, the website allows visitors to perceive it differently, in an intuitive and chromatic way, thanks to a fluid, immersive navigation through selections of works with dominant shades of red, blue, green, white, pink, black, yellow and purple.

## Studios



The artist’s studios are presented as creative spaces. This documentary approach is based on numerous photographs from the Archives Marc et Ida Chagall, allowing visitors to glimpse the atmosphere of the artist’s studios throughout his life.

Marc Chagall had many studios in Russia, in France, in Germany and during his exile in the United States during the Second World War. They became synonymous with meetings and collaborations when Chagall moved towards other artistic practices.

In an educational approach, the works visible in these studio photographs have been identified, and their references can be consulted in one click.



## A highlight of the Archives Marc et Ida Chagall, Paris

The Archives Marc et Ida Chagall, a collection of several thousand documents, is the most important archive devoted to the artist Marc Chagall. Composed of Marc Chagall's correspondence (1910-1985), the collection is supplemented by numerous administrative documents, photographs of various works and documentary resources, the result of a long work of digitisation.

In collaboration with the Société Grahall, an in-depth process of inventory and research has identified more than 55,000 documents offering an unprecedented reading of the artist's life and work, as well as a new vision of his collaborations with emblematic figures of twentieth-century art (Louis Aragon, André Breton, Blaise Cendrars, Robert Delaunay, Le Corbusier, Aimé Maeght, André Malraux, Diego Rivera, Philippe Soupault, Tériade, Ambroise Vollard, etc.).

These documents are available to researchers and amateurs of Marc Chagall's work, on request by means of the contact form on the website, marcchagall.com.



© Marc and Ida Chagall Archives, Paris.

### The archives in a few figures:

30 000  
letters

18 000  
postcards

10 000  
documents

5 000  
photographs



Postcard from Blaise Cendrars (Paris), October 13, 1913  
Marc and Ida Chagall Archives, Paris.



Postcard from Blaise Cendrars (Paris), October 13, 1913  
Marc and Ida Chagall Archives, Paris.



# Online resources

## The library

The “Resources” section of the website includes an online library with the references of the works present in the bibliography relating to each work in the catalogue raisonné. It will be enriched as research progresses and new volumes of the catalogue raisonné are released.



© Marc and Ida Chagall Archives, Paris.

<p>CATALOGUE D'EXPOSITION MONOGRAPHIQUE <b>Chagall</b> Fundación Caja, Thyssen-Bornemisza Museo Nacional, 2012</p>	<p>CATALOGUE D'EXPOSITION MONOGRAPHIQUE <b>Nouveaux regards sur Marc</b> ... Curators Inc. Art &amp; Architecture, 2013</p>	<p>CATALOGUE D'EXPOSITION MONOGRAPHIQUE <b>Chagall : Beyond Color</b> Dallas Museum of Art, 2013</p>	<p>CATALOGUE D'EXPOSITION MONOGRAPHIQUE <b>Chagall et la musique</b> Éditions Gallimard, 2015</p>
<p>MONOGRAPHIE <b>Chagall</b> Citadelles &amp; Mazenod, 2019</p>	<p>CATALOGUE D'EXPOSITION MONOGRAPHIQUE <b>Chagall : Le passeur de ...</b> Centre Pompidou-Metz, 2020</p>	<p>CATALOGUE D'EXPOSITION MONOGRAPHIQUE <b>Marc Chagall : Anche la mia ...</b> Silvana editoriale, 2020</p>	<p>CATALOGUE D'EXPOSITION MONOGRAPHIQUE <b>De couleur et d'encre : Marc ...</b> RMN-Réunion des Musées nationaux, 2020</p>
<p>CATALOGUE D'EXPOSITION MONOGRAPHIQUE <b>Marc Chagall : Paintings, ...</b> Pierre Matisse Gallery, 1973</p>	<p>CATALOGUE D'EXPOSITION MONOGRAPHIQUE <b>Musée national Message ...</b> Éditions des Musées nationaux, 1973</p>	<p>MONOGRAPHIE <b>Chagall monumental</b> XXe siècle, 1973</p>	<p>CATALOGUE D'EXPOSITION MONOGRAPHIQUE <b>Marc Chagall : Maquettes et ...</b> Éditions des Musées nationaux, 1974</p>



## INA's audio and visual archives

The video library and the audio library offer access to a selection of programmes, drawn from the rich resources of the INA and subtitled in French. Interviews, documentaries, reports, magazines and spoken news items covering the period from the early 1950s to the late 1970s retrace the major artistic events that interspersed the artist's career: the inauguration of the ceiling of the Paris Opera, the creation of the sets for the Metropolitan Opera in New York, the donation of the Biblical Message cycle to the French State, the construction of the museum devoted to the artist and the creation of the stained glass windows for the cathedral of Reims, to name but a few examples.

The living word of Chagall and his contemporaries immerses us in the universe of his creation. Interviews with figures from the art world at the time, such as the writers Philippe Soupault, André Salmon and Florent Fels, the engraver Roger Vieillard, the ceramists Artigas and Émile Decœur, the museum curators Jean Cassou and Jacques Lassaigne, as well as the statements of important politicians, including Georges Pompidou, André Malraux and Léopold Senghor, make it possible to take multiple trips into the past, to give an account of the key role that the artist occupies in the artistic and cultural landscape of the twentieth century and to try to capture some traits of his personality.

## Latest research

A space devoted to the latest research, where articles on various subjects will be published, will reflect the current state of knowledge about the artist. Marcchagall.com, designed as a platform for the dissemination of knowledge, will publish contributions from researchers seeking to expand on a specific and original subject about the life and work of Marc Chagall.

The video player shows a black and white photograph of Marc Chagall in his studio. The title 'Marc Chagall dans son atelier parisien' is displayed in a white box. A play button is centered on the video. The duration 'Durée 00:57' is shown in the top right corner. The INA logo is in the bottom right corner. Below the video, the text reads: 'DOCUMENTAIRE - 01/01/1950', 'Marc Chagall dans son atelier parisien', 'Reportage consacré à Chagall travaillant dans son atelier au bord de la Seine, peuplé « de fantômes et de songes », accompagné d'une description de l'univers pictural et poétique de l'artiste.', and 'LAF - 01/01/1950 - Philippe Este; Jean Gourdon; René Persin; Suzanne Gaveau © INA'.

The video player shows a colorful abstract painting by Marc Chagall. The title '90ème anniversaire de Marc Chagall' is displayed in a white box. A play button is centered on the video. The duration 'Durée 07:56' is shown in the top right corner. The INA logo is in the bottom right corner. Below the video, the text reads: 'DOCUMENTAIRE - 08/07/1977', '90ème anniversaire de Marc Chagall', 'Marc Chagall a fêté hier soir ses 90 ans à Nice, lors d'une grande soirée. Le critique d'art André Parinaud revient sur la personnalité et la carrière du célèbre peintre, « cet homme du merveilleux [qui est] en même temps un méthodique ».', and 'Inter actualités de 13H00 - France Inter / RF - 08/07/1977 - Sampiero Sanguinetti © INA'.



## 2023: A Chagall year

2023 will be marked by many events celebrating the artist Marc Chagall, amongst which the exhibitions entitled “Chagall: Paris-New York” at the Atelier des Lumières in Paris and “Chagall: Politique” at La Piscine - Musée d’art et d’histoire André Diligent de Roubaix, as well as the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Musée national Marc Chagall in Nice.

### “Chagall: World in Turmoil”

Exhibition until February 19th, 2023

Schirn, Frankfurt

[Learn more](#)

### “Chagall: Paris-New York”

Immersive exhibition from February 17th, 2023 to January 7th, 2024

Ateliers des Lumières, Paris

[Learn more](#)

### “Chagall: World in Turmoil”

Exhibition from March 17th to June 18th, 2023

Henie Onstad Art Center, Hovikodden

[Learn more](#)

### “Chagall and Litvak Artists in Paris”

Exhibition from May 25th, 2023 to September 29th, 2023

Lithuanian National Museum of Art, Vilnius

In partnership with MAHJ, Paris

### The 50th anniversary of the creation of the Musée national Marc Chagall

#### “Chagall et moi!”

7th, 8th and 9th of July, 2023

Musée national Marc Chagall, Nice

[Learn more](#)

### Presentation of the Donation Bella et Meret Meyer

Exhibition from September 1st to December 21st, 2023 (dates to be confirmed)

Centre Georges-Pompidou, Paris

### “Chagall: Politique”

Exhibition from October 6th, 2023 to June 2024 (dates to be confirmed)

La Piscine - Musée d’art et d’histoire André Diligent, Roubaix

Fundación Mapfre, Madrid

Musée national Marc Chagall, Nice

### Reprint of *Les Fables de La Fontaine*

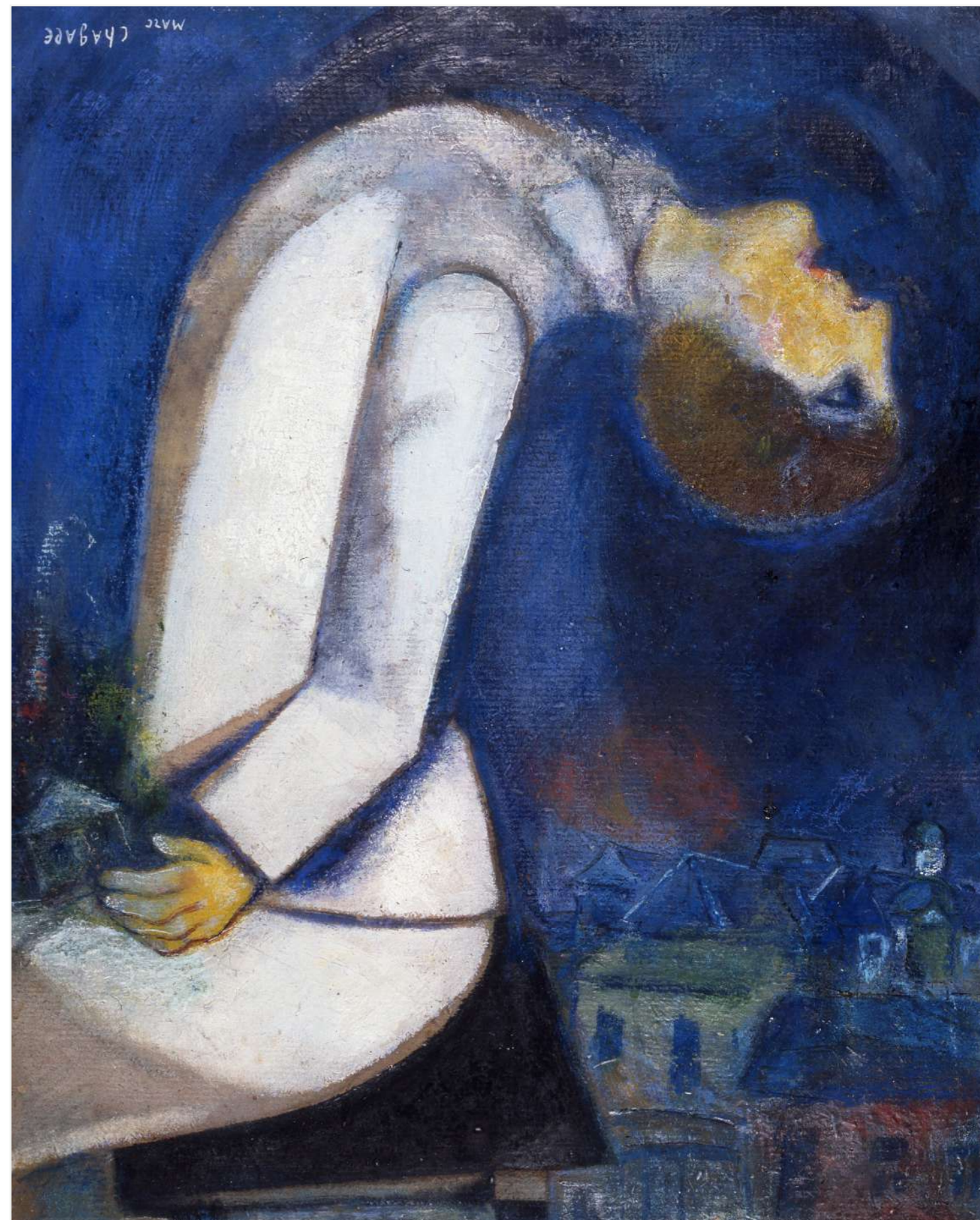
#### illustrated by Marc Chagall

by Ambre Gauthier

Autumn 2023 (date to be confirmed)

Éditions Hazan

In the “News” section of the website, visitors will be able to find all the latest news related to Marc Chagall, including the latest exhibitions devoted to the artist.



Marc Chagall, *Man with his Head thrown back*, 1919, oil on cardboard mounted on wood, 54 cm x 47 cm, private collection  
© Marc and Ida Chagall Archives, Paris / ADAGP, Paris, 2023.



## About Marc Chagall

The life of **Marc Chagall (1887-1985)**, a major 20th century artist admired for his mastery of color, marked by exile, a revolution and two world wars, has deeply influenced his unique work. Painter, illustrator, engraver, he initiated, from the early 1950s, to various techniques such as sculpture, ceramics or stained glass in collaboration with craftsmen, leaving a rich artistic legacy that this website aims to celebrate.

**1887-1906:** Marc Chagall was born on July 7 in Vitebsk, a provincial town in the vast Russian Empire, located in present-day Belarus into a modest Jewish family. In 1906, Marc Chagall received his first artistic training, dispensed by the master Iouri (Yehuda) Pen.

**1911-1914:** In early May 1911, the artist left for Paris, via Berlin. In 1912, Chagall moved into a workshop in La Ruche and made friends with the poets Blaise Cendrars, Max Jacob, André Salmon, and Guillaume Apollinaire. In 1914, the artist's first major show was held at the Der Sturm gallery in Berlin. He goes back to Tsarist Russia, but was forced to stay in after the war broke out.

**1915-1919:** Chagall married Bella Rosenfeld on 25 July 1915. Their daughter Ida was born in May 1916. The painter creates the most important artworks of his Vitebsk's period. In 1919, Chagall, appointed as fine arts commissioner of the Vitebsk area region, devoted himself to the creation of a museum and a popular School of art. Chagall named teachers and artists from a variety of artistic currents, such as Malevitch.

**1920-1922:** In 1920, after falling out with Malevich, Chagall left for Moscow. In November 1920, Chagall was invited to work at the Jewish Kamerny Theater and painted murals. Chagall left Russia definitively in April and returned to Berlin.

**1923-1927:** Chagall's family arrives in Paris in 1923. Ambroise Vollard commissions the artist the Gogol's *Dead Souls* illustration. He stayed in Auvergne for a few months where he painted the gouaches in preparation for etchings for La Fontaine's *Fables*. Bernheim-Jeune became Chagall's personal representative.

**1931:** Chagall works on the preparatory gouaches and Bible etchings commissioned by Vollard the previous year. *My Life*, his autobiographical story, released in the French translation is published by the Stock publishing house in Paris.

**1933-1938:** In 1933, an affidavit of his works took place. His request for French citizenship was rejected. In 1937, with the help of his French friends, in particular Jean Paulhan, Chagall obtained French citizenship. Under the Nazi regime, all of the artist's work was taken down from German museums, and three of his works were classified as degenerate art.

**1941:** Thanks to the competition of the journalist Varian Fry and an invitation of the MoMA, the artist goes into exile in New York along with Matisse, Picasso, Rouault, Masson, and Max Ernst. Pierre Matisse became Chagall's personal representative.

**1942-1943:** Chagall created the sets and costumes for the ballet *Aleko* and the scenography was completed in Mexico where the premiere was held. On May 5, 1943, Marc Chagall was stripped of his French nationality by the Vichy regime.

**1944:** The Chagalls heard about the liberation of Paris when they were at Cranberry Lake. Bella contracted a viral infection and died on September 2.

**1945-1947:** Chagall and his daughter Ida began translating and illustrating the first volume of Bella's memories, *Burning Lights*. Chagall worked on the sets for Stravinsky's *The Firebird*. He met Virginia McNeil and their son David was born in 1946. A large retrospective was organized at the New York's Museum of Modern Art then at the Chicago's Art Institute.

**1948:** Back in France, Aimé Maeght became Chagall's representative also the publishers Zervos and Tériade who went on to acquire all the etchings and copper engravings for *Dead Souls* Fables, and the Bible from Vollard's collection. The etchings for *Dead Souls* are realized.

**1949-1956:** From 1950, installed one year earlier in the south of France, Chagall began an initiation into the ceramics, which led him to sculpture. He married Valentina Brodsky in 1952. They traveled in Greece and Italy. The new experiences from this trip undoubtedly inspired the vibrant solar colors and pastoral shapes seen in the *Daphnis and Chloé* cycle. Tériade published The Bible in 1956. Exhibits were held in Basel, Bern, and Brussels in tribute to the artist. The painter began working again on his monumental paintings for the *Biblical Message* series, which he finished in 1966.

**1959:** Marc Chagall worked on stained-glass windows for Metz cathedral. An important retrospective is organized in Hamburg, Munich and Paris.

**1961-1962:** Tériade published *Daphnis and Chloé*. On February 6, 1962, Chagall attended the official unveiling of the stained-glass windows for the synagogue of the Hadassah medical center in Jerusalem.

**1963-1970:** André Malraux invited the artist to design a new ceiling for the Garnier opera house inaugurated in 1964. Chagall and Vava settled in La Colline, a house at Saint-Paul de Vence. The artist painted for the New York's Metropolitan Opera two murals. The large retrospective *Homage to Chagall*, opened at the Grand Palais in Paris in 1969.

**1973-1984:** The Musée national Message Biblique Marc Chagall (now Musée national Marc Chagall) in Nice opened in the presence of André Malraux in 1973. The three stained-glass windows of the artist were unveiled at Reims Notre-Dame cathedral in 1974. The artist's works on paper were honored at the National Museum of Modern Art in Paris while the Maeght Foundation in Saint-Paul-de-Vence held a retrospective of the artist's paintings.

**1985:** On the evening of March 28, after spending the day in his studio, Marc Chagall passed away. His funeral was held on April 1<sup>st</sup> at the Saint-Paul cemetery, where the artist now rests.

*"I chose painting, it was as necessary to me as food.  
It seemed like a window through which  
to fly to another world."*

— Marc Chagall



## A project by the Association des Amis de Marc Chagall



Created in 2019 to defend and promote the work and reputation of the artist Marc Chagall, the Association des Amis de Marc Chagall currently has as its main mission the dissemination and inventory of his work, through the realization of the official catalogue raisonné of Marc Chagall, with the assistance of the Marc Chagall Committee and the Marc and Ida Chagall Archives, drawing up an exhaustive panorama of the artist's creation and techniques.

The Association des Amis de Marc Chagall is also responsible for managing the Marc and Ida Chagall Archives, made available by Marc Chagall's estate. This reference collection of several thousand letters, documents and photographs, the largest dedicated to the artist, contributes to a better knowledge of Marc Chagall's work. It is available on request for scientific and artistic research.

The marcchagall.com website is a project conceived and designed by :  
**Ambre Gauthier**, Director of the catalogue raisonné, archives and website  
**Sofiya Glukhova**, Research officer  
**Quitterie du Vigier**, Research officer

In collaboration with:  
**Reciproque**, 12-12 bis, rue St Maur 75011 Paris, France  
[www.reciproque.com](http://www.reciproque.com)

*“Everyone thinks they know Marc Chagall's work. But beyond the obvious and romantic image that has lasted for a long time, it is time to look the work in the face. A work of incredible creativity and complexity, carried by a political force facing visceral, sometimes radical upheavals, a work that feeds on multiple cultures and intersecting views, interspersed by sensitive and moving allusions.”*  
 — Ambre Gauthier

*“Behind the apparent lightness of the shapes and the magic of the colours lies the hard work of an artist who often repeated that he chose his profession after watching his father lift herring barrels his whole life. As a Jewish immigrant, Chagall brought his unique universe to the world, whose humanistic strength and love of nature resonate as never before in the face of contemporary turmoil.”*  
 — Sofiya Glukhova

*“As close as possible to the creative gesture, this immersion into the atmosphere of Marc Chagall's studios, into his colours and materials, reveals the many facets of his known and lesser-known works and the diversity of techniques which the artist experimented with.”*  
 — Quitterie du Vigier



Marc Chagall, *The Three Acrobats*, 1923, etching enhanced with gouache and India ink on paper, 37.7 x 41.5 cm, private collection © Archives Marc et Ida Chagall, Paris / ADAGP, Paris, 2023.

### Partners

Musée national Marc Chagall à Nice, Institut national de l'audiovisuel - INA, Réunion des Musées nationaux, ICRA - International Catalogue Raisonné Association, IFAR - International Foundation for Art Research, associations Cité Falguière et L'Air Arts, Paris, RéciProque.

Musée national Marc Chagall







Marc Chagall's studio, Les Collines, Vence, circa 1969 © Association Willy Maywald, ADAGP 2023.

Cover: Marc Chagall, *Sketch for Two Faces*, 1968, gouache and Indian ink on printed paper japon nacré, 33,5 x 25,7 cm, private collection, © Archives Marc et Ida Chagall, Paris / ADAGP, Paris, 2023.

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