

PRESS RELEASE
EXHIBITION „MARC CHAGALL: BEYOND COLOR“
15.6.-15.9.2017.
Rector's Palace, Zadar

Situated in the Rector's Palace in Zadar, the exhibition represents a retrospective of graphic works of the world master of modern art – Marc Chagall.

The exhibition holds eighty graphic works and memorabilia dating from the early twenties to the mid-eighties of the last century. Through a series of lithographs, copperplates and woodcuts any art enthusiast has the opportunity to immerse in the artist's constant dialogue with the eternal.

In love with his love – Bell Rosenfeld, the one who obsesses his paintings, the enthusiasm of the omnipresence of the Divine, the loyalty to the Russian-Jewish roots, unhappy enchantment with motifs of the native Vitebsk, or apolitical condemnation to the exodus – all these emerge through displayed illustrations of the *Bible*, Gogol's *Dead Souls*, Homer's *Odyssey*, *Le Poème*, *Windows of Jerusalem*, *Circus, Paris*, Long's epic *Daphnis and Chloe*, including a large number of Chagall's graphic works. To immerse into the deep, forbidden, unsaid and intangible, arduous to many, whereas too painful, but to do it in such a poetical way, with gratitude, with the eyes of a child and a heart of a lover – that's Chagall.

To love, color, fly, dream, long with fervour and marvel passionately, mostly stand as attributes of those whose destiny doesn't impose precipitous challenges; at least this is the common belief. However, only exceptional souls can do it in spite of that.

Crucified between death, poverty, forced movings, loneliness, doubt, horrors of war and being doomed, M. Chagall manages to go beyond all painful impositions and survive with love - in color.

My hands were too soft.. I had to find some special occupation, some kind of work that would not force me to turn away from the sky and the stars, that would allow me to discover the meaning of life.



THE WANDERING JEW

Marc Chagall was born on July 7th 1887 in an orthodox Jewish family in Vitebsk. From 1907 to 1910 he studied in Saint Petersburg, at the Imperial Society for the Protection of the Arts and later with Léon Bakst. In 1910, he moved to Paris, where he associated with Guillaume Apollinaire and Robert Delaunay and encountered Fauvism and Cubism. He participated in the Salon des Indépendants and the Salon d'Automne in 1912. His first solo show was held in 1914 at Der Sturm gallery in Berlin.

Chagall visited Russia in 1914, and was prevented from returning to Paris by the outbreak of war. He settled in Vitebsk, where he was appointed Commissar for Art in 1918. He founded the Vitebsk Popular Art School and directed it until disagreements with the Suprematists resulted in his resignation in 1920. He moved to Moscow and executed his first stage designs for the State Jewish Chamber Theater there. After a sojourn in Berlin, Chagall returned to Paris in 1923 and met Ambroise Vollard. His first retrospective took place in 1924 at the Galerie Barbazanges-Hodebert, Paris. During the 1930s, he traveled to Palestine, the Netherlands, Spain, Poland, and Italy. In 1933, the Kunsthalle Basel held a major retrospective of his work.

During World War II, Chagall fled to the United States. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gave him a retrospective in 1946. He settled permanently in France in 1948 and exhibited in Paris, Amsterdam, and London. During 1951, he visited Israel and executed his first sculptures. The following year, the artist traveled in Greece and Italy. During the 1960s, Chagall continued to travel widely, often in association with large-scale commissions he received. Among these were windows for the synagogue of the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center,

Jerusalem, installed in 1962; a ceiling for the Paris Opéra (1964); a window for the United Nations building, New York (1964); murals for the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, (1967); and windows for the cathedral in Metz, France (1968). Also, by the time Chagall was the first artist in history which exhibition was held at the Musée du Louvre, Paris (1967-1977) while the artist was still alive. During his long creative lifetime Chagall is a prime example of a modern artist who mastered multiple media, including painting in both oil and gouache, watercolor, murals, ceramics, etching, drawing, theater and costume design, and stained-glass work. Chagall died March 28, 1985, in Saint-Paul-de-Vence, France.