

MEDIA RELEASE: MARCH 2023



Images: left: Marc Chagall, *Vision de Paris (Image of Paris)*, 1960, lithography from *Lithographes* series © Comité Chagall, courtesy Art & Co / Jewish Museum of Australia
right: Marc Chagall, *Si Mon Soleil (If my Sun)*, 1968, xylography from *Poèmes* series © Comité Chagall, courtesy Art & Co / Jewish Museum of Australia

CHAGALL

In 2023, the Jewish Museum of Australia: Gandel Centre of Judaica is bringing the remarkable story of international master Marc Chagall to Melbourne.

The Jewish Museum will be transformed into a Chagall-inspired dreamscape that includes an exclusive capsule of original works and poems, alongside a bespoke immersive experience and creative making space from 09 June – 10 December 2023. Considered among the greatest artists of the twentieth century, **Marc Chagall** (1887 – 1985) is remembered for his highly personal visual language, and poignant consideration of universal and timeless themes such as joy, love and melancholy. Combining the Jewish folkloric painterly roots of his native Russia and the Parisian avant-garde, with fauvist, cubist, and expressionist styles, Chagall created a sensibility that was truly his own, with his name and influence held by many alongside **Picasso, Matisse** and **Monet**.

Titled **CHAGALL**, this exhibition is a symbolic nod to the Jewish Museum's first largescale exhibition in 1995 **Chagall and the Bible**. Dedicated to the Museum's visionary inaugural director, the late **Dr Helen Light AM**, this exhibition will celebrate the centrality of Jewish heritage and identity in Chagall's art and the richly experimental, luminous and joyful nature of his work.

CEO & Director of the Jewish Museum, **Jessica Bram** says that **CHAGALL** is the perfect exhibition for the Museum in 2023.

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‘Following the success of *HELMUT NEWTON: In Focus* and *MIRKA*, our Jewish Museum is thrilled to be turning our attention to another remarkable visual artist, a celebrated international master who has contributed so much to the creative world and conversation around cultural identity more broadly. It’s our privilege to be working with the Comité Chagall and our international and national partners to bring Marc Chagall’s story and sensibility colourfully to life in our spaces from next year. And even more poignantly to be paying tribute to the Museum’s inaugural director, the late Dr Helen Light AM, whose extraordinary vision foregrounded Chagall expansively for Australian audiences for the first time in 1995.’

Included in **CHAGALL** will be woodcuts and collages from *Poèmes* (1968), prints from *Lithographes* (1960), selected works from *Les Fables de la Fontaine* (1926 – 28), and etchings and engravings from the *Bible* series (1950s-60s). In addition, works will be included from the Art Gallery of New South Wales, National Gallery of Victoria and local collectors.

Curating CHAGALL for the Jewish Museum is international art historian and curator, **Jade Niklai**.

‘This exhibition will showcase the breadth of his work—telling the story of Chagall as a twentieth century visionary through his art, architecture commissions and his poetry. This exhibition will weave its way through the Jewish Museum’s permanent exhibition, talking to it, participating in it and becoming one with it.’

As ever, the Jewish Museum is committed to providing free and interactive spaces for the community through public art on its façade and within, programmed work in the non-ticked ground level spaces that will allow for a vibrant run of activations, conversations and interactive Chagall-world activities for the young and young-at-heart.

CHAGALL will expand on the Museum’s previous offerings through a **Contemporary Australian Artist Commission** that provides an inspired opportunity of interpretation and response to Chagall’s story, themes and practice. The Jewish Museum is thrilled to announce award-winning creative practitioner **Yvette Coppersmith** as the inaugural Contemporary Australian Artist Commission. Coppersmith will take over the ground floor galleries during CHAGALL with a selection of works that evoke joy, love and colour.

Opening weekend (09-11 June) will have a number of free family activities including face painting, curatorial talks and music and the opening month will bring back the ever-popular late-night openings on Saturday nights.

DETAILS:

Jewish Museum of Australia
26 Alma Road, St Kilda
Tuesday – Friday: 10am – 5pm
Sunday: 10am – 5pm

jewishmuseum.com.au

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Exhibition dates: 09 June – 10 December 2023

CHAGALL Curator: Jade Niklai