



Family Guide
The Jewish Museum
**Chagall:
Love, War, and Exile**

Marc Chagall's dreamlike paintings were inspired by the places he lived, by the people he met, and by his imagination. Use this guide as a starting point to discover more about Chagall and his art. Please note that Chagall painted powerful images to express the challenges his community faced, some of which contain difficult subject matter.

Enter the exhibition from either the first or last room. Each time you stop to look at a painting, discuss the following themes with your grown-up.

Composition

Composition is the placement of images in a work of art. Chagall combines many elements in the composition of his paintings including various people, animals, buildings, and objects.

Find a painting that catches your eye. Describe this painting to your grown-up.

- Is there something unexpected about the placement of the images?
- Where are they located on the canvas?
- Where are they in relation to one another?
- What is your favorite moment in this composition?



Place

Select a new painting that shows an intriguing place.

- What kind of place is this? Is it inside or outside, in the city, or the country? How can you tell?
- What objects do you notice in this scene? What might these objects tell you about the place?
- Where is the light coming from? A candle? The moon? A window? Imagine what it might feel like if you were to step inside this painting. Would it be warm or cold? What kinds of noises would you hear? What might you smell?
- Where is your favorite place to spend time? How is this place similar to or different than the scene in Chagall's painting?

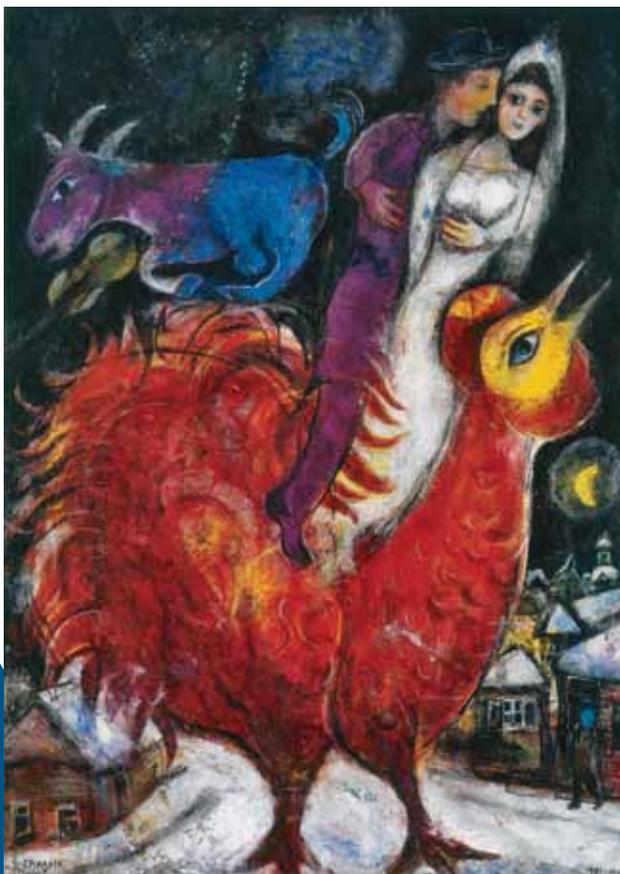
Animals

Chagall included many animals in his paintings. They often refer to childhood memories of animals that roamed the streets of his hometown or his grandfather's farm in Russia. What kinds of animals do you notice in your neighborhood?

As you move through the galleries, create a story together about a cow with a parasol, a flying fish with a fiddle, or a dancing bird.



Character



Choose another painting.

- How many characters do you see in this painting?
- Describe one of these characters. What is he or she doing? Is it a person or an animal? Real or imaginary?
- Take the character's pose. How does it feel to act like this character?
- Move or pose like a different character in the same painting.

Create

Chagall used familiar environments as inspiration for the scenes in his paintings. When you get home, draw a scene in your neighborhood from an unexpected point of view. For example, imagine the way your neighborhood might look from above, looking up from the ground, or through a window. Include imaginary characters inspired by people and animals you know. Draw in the space below or on a separate sheet of paper.



Congratulations on completing the *Chagall: Love, War, and Exile* family guide. We hope you enjoyed the exhibition!

For more info on Family Programs visit TheJewishMuseum.org/Families

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Front cover: Marc Chagall, *Time Is a River Without Banks* (detail), 1930–1939, oil on canvas, 40 ½ × 32 ¾ in. Collection of Kathleen Kapnick, New York. © 2013 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / ADAGP, Paris

Page two: Marc Chagall, *Between Darkness and Light*, 1938–1943, oil on paper mounted on canvas, 39 ¾ × 28 ¾ in. (100 × 73 cm) Private collection

Page three: (top) Marc Chagall, *Cow with Parasol*, 1946, oil on canvas, 32 × 42 ½ in. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. © 2013 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / ADAGP, Paris

(bottom) Marc Chagall, *The Bride and Groom on Cock*, 1939–1947, oil on canvas, 45 ¾ × 35 ¾ in. Private collection. © 2013 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / ADAGP, Paris

Back cover: Marc Chagall, *The Dream*, 1939, gouache on paper, 20 ½ × 26 ¾. The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C. © 2013 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / ADAGP, Paris