

**Revised Sept. 2011**

**FAMOUS ARTIST SERIES:    MARC CHAGALL (1887 - 1985)**  
“Feathers In Bloom” 1943  
Gouache  
79 x 55.5 cm  
Museum of Modern Art, Paris

**Supplies Needed:**

- \* Framed poster of “Feathers In Bloom”
- \* Laminated pictures of Chagall and his artworks (3 total) in supply box
- \* Paint brushes, colored pencil, and tissue paper in supply box
- \* Die cuts and black construction paper (teachers workroom)
- \* Paper cups in Art Appreciation Supply cupboard
- \* Wax paper and glue from supply box
- \* Bag of prisms
- \* Marc Chagall, Art for Children Rabaff/Ernest for reference

Books for reference from Cook Library:

- \* Marc Chagall Life is a Dream Prestel J759.7CHA
- \* Marc Chagall Ernest Raboff J759.7 CHA

***AHEAD OF TIME NOTE: “Stained Glass Project”- Use die cuts in teachers workroom and cut out design on 8 x 8 black construction paper folded in half (fold on one side-see sample in box). You may use a few different designs, but need one per student. Use designs that don’t have large openings, easier for kids when overlapping tissue and making the stained glass. Cut up small pieces of tissue paper in different shapes. In addition, please make copies of the master “Famous Artist Series” note for the students to take home.***

***Place the framed poster and laminates 3 & 4 before all the students. Ask them if they have ever had crazy dreams where odd things happen -- things flying into space, or people with animal heads? Allow time for students to have a short discussion of their craziest dreams.***

The artist who made these paintings and other artworks loved to make pictures about his dreams. His name was Marc Chagall. He was born in a small village in Russia more than one hundred years ago. He was the oldest of his 7 sisters and 1 brother. When you look closely at Chagall's paintings, stained glass windows or mosaics, you can see parts of the small village he came from — buildings, farmers, animals, and musicians. But the people aren't always walking on the ground, or in front of their houses or places of worship. They are flying all over the

place. Chagall liked to paint pictures of his favorite animals, places and people all swirling around like Dorothy did when she traveled to Oz.

***Have the students come up and point out animals, farmers or things that remind them of Chagall's village. Where are they in the picture? Are they upside down? Animals were Chagall's friends and he often used to talk to them. In "I And The Village", laminate #3, can you see the face of the man and the cow? What do you think he is saying or is the cow telling him a story? Do you see a violin player in any of these paintings? His favorite Uncle Neuch played the violin and is seen often in his works.***

Chagall used beautiful rainbow colors that looked like the view through a ***kaleidoscope***. A new pattern appears each time you turn a kaleidoscope. ***Turn laminate #3 and ask the students if they see different patterns***. He also liked to include geometric shapes, like triangles and squares, in his work. ***Some shapes are highlighted in marker on laminate #4.***

***Pass around the kaleidoscope for the children to look through. Ask them if they see many different shapes and colors like in Chagall's work.***

Many of his early paintings show symbols of his Jewish faith, are from the Bible and from popular fairy tales. He loved life and loved to make pictures about love. He said, "You have to be simply honest and filled with love. When you have love, all the other qualities come by themselves."

***Present laminate #1, photo of Chagall painting a portrait of his wife. Show the reverse side of "Over The City." Ask the students if they can guess who these people are (Chagall and his wife) and why they are flying. Can the students tell if the couple is in love? Could it be because they are so much in love they can take flight? You can't see anyone else in the town; is it because the couple is so absorbed they don't notice anyone else?***

Chagall painted hundreds of paintings, made drawings, painted ceramics and made stained glass windows. Here in Chicago there are a number of his works, including a very large rectangular box covered with tiny bits of ceramic called a "mosaic". ***Show laminate #2, "Four Seasons***. Each piece is a part of a puzzle that becomes a huge picture called "The Four Seasons." Birds, animals and people fly around the pictures of the four seasons. Each season has an image of Lake Michigan and of the sun. This piece is outdoors in Chicago (***point out the pictures of the downtown buildings and the sun seen in the photo***). The Art

Institute of Chicago also owns a number of Chagall's paintings, as well as a magnificent stained glass window, which takes up a whole wall of the museum. **Show flipside of laminate #2, stained glass "America Windows" from the Art Institute. Ask the students what they see – do they see people flying? Trees and buildings? Farm animals?**

**Have the students take turns looking through the prisms at objects in the room. See how they make the objects look like Chagall's paintings and stained glass.**

Marc Chagall lived to be 97 years old. He had an amazing imagination, mixing scenes from his dreams with those of the real world.

### **Art Project:**

#### **Stained Glass**

**Cover students' tables with newspaper. Have a couple paper cups set out with enough glue in it and add a little water and mix to make a "glue wash", having at least one for every two students. Give every student a large piece of wax paper. Have the children open up their die cut design and place it on the wax paper. Paint around the edges of the design with glue wash. They will then take their pieces of tissue and start overlapping around the edges first, filling in the center last, using the glue to help stick together. When design is complete, put one final coat of glue wash over design and rest of paper and then close shut. Write their name on with colored pencil and remove from wax paper. Set aside to dry. Please save for Spring Student Art Fair. (coincides with Spring Sing) We display these with clothespins and wire in hallway area so light shines through. Viola --- stained glass!**

**PLEASE LEAVE AT LEAST FIVE MINUTES THE END OF THE PRESENTATION TO ALLOW THE STUDENTS TO DISCUSS THEIR WORK.**

## **FAMOUS ARTISTS SERIES**

### **Marc Chagall**

Today in class a volunteer parent presented the works of Russian artist Marc Chagall to your child's class. They learned about Chagall's background, as well as made an art project in the style of his work. Ask your student about Chagall's work – what made his paintings so unique? Do they remember what types of subjects he liked to paint?

The Art Institute of Chicago owns a number of Chagall's works, including the large stained glass "America Windows". In addition, "The Four Seasons" mosaic is outdoors in Chicago at BankOne Plaza on Dearborn and Madison streets.

In addition a childrens' book entitled Anna's Art Adventure touches on Chagall's work.

Sincerely yours,

**Art Volunteer**