

Hi Mom and Dad,

Today the Art Parent came in to our class to introduce Marc Chagall. He was one of the most successful artists of the 20th century.

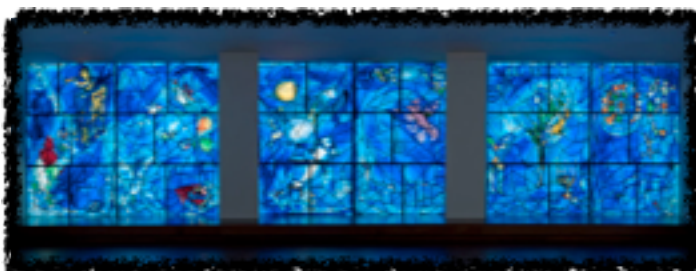
Marc Chagall was born in 1887 to a poor Jewish family in Russia. He lived to be 97 years old! This meant he lived through two world wars and thus led a very unsettling life. His art was his window to escape the unfavorable things around him and leap into his magical dreams. Despite some dark moments in his life, he remained an optimist. With every brushstroke, every blue, green, or purple faced cow, Chagall's artwork seemed to express a dream like fantasy world.

Marc Chagall did not paint like other artist in his time period. His paintings were very abstract and whimsical. He wasted no space as every square inch of his canvas was filled with vibrant and powerful colors. Marc Chagall created works in virtually every artistic medium, including painting, book illustrations, stained glass, stage sets, ceramic, tapestries and fine art prints.

In class we focused on two famous works of Marc Chagall, both of which are located in downtown Chicago. The first is the American Windows, which is located in the Art Institute of Chicago. These stained glass windows (8ft by 32ft) are an expression of his gratitude to the United States where he found a safe home during WW2. In The America Windows Chagall celebrates the greatness of the United States and acclaims it as a country of freedom, liberty, culture and religious tolerance. The windows are one of the most celebrated exhibits at the Art Institute.

The second Marc Chagall masterpiece we talked about was the Four Seasons located at the Chase Tower Plaza on Dearborn and Monroe Streets. It is 70 feet long by 14 feet high by 10 feet wide and is composed of thousands of inlaid chips in over 250 colors. Marc Chagall's mosaic artwork the Four Seasons portrays six scenes of Chicago. It features images influenced by the artist's Russian-Jewish heritage such as birds, fish, flowers, musicians, and suns. All these fantasy characters float in this spaceless scene. You really feel like you are transported to a world far away from the soaring skyscrapers that surround this block.

Both of these art pieces are magnificent and I hope I get a chance to experience them in person. Ask me about Marc Chagall. I'll have lots of interesting information to share with you.



American Windows



Four Seasons

Located in the Art Institute Chicago

Located at Chase Plaza (Dearborn and Monroe)