



EXHIBITION

Marc Chagall, Master of Colour

16 Jun 2016 - 16 Jul 2016

[Stern Pissarro Gallery](#)

[London, United Kingdom](#)

Exhibited in a commercial gallery for the first time, these works have come from a Swiss family, who acquired them from Chagall's son, and after this exhibition it is unlikely these works will be ever shown together again.

About

"When Matisse dies, Chagall will be the only painter left who understands what colour is."

- Pablo Picasso

Usually one needs to go to a museum to see a Chagall exhibition, however Mayfair's Stern Pissarro Gallery will host a major Marc Chagall exhibition from 16 June – 16 July 2016. The exhibition will include over forty oil paintings and works on paper.

Learning that a Swiss family had a rare collection of 24 Chagalls, the owners of the gallery, David Stern and Lélia Pissarro, decided to trace down the collectors. Purchased from Marc Chagall's son forty years ago, these pieces have remained in the same family's collection since. With the sole exception of being released to a 1989 Chagall exhibition at the Kunstmuseum in Bonn, these pieces have been kept from the public. These pieces are particularly significant as they were preliminary works for the artist's *Verve* publications that he started working on in the 1930s and after extensive work were published in 1956 and 1960 as a series of lithographs illustrating the Hebrew bible.

Chagall, the Russian artist, once stated, "It has always seemed to me, and it seems to me still, that the bible is the greatest source of poetry of all time." In these unique pieces Chagall the painter-poet creates unorthodox biblical depictions using Russian interpretations as well as displaying surprising depth of emotion, allowing room for several interpretations.

According to David Stern, "This will be the last time these works will be owned by a single collector; seeing these 24 works all together should be a treat to the eye, as well as something quite rare."

The international popularity of Chagall is connected to his love and use of colour. This exhibition focuses on how brilliant colours infuse Chagall's canvases with a dreamlike, non-realistic simplicity. Through the use of vivid colours, Chagall transcends a pictorial language intertwined with symbolism rooted in Russian folklore, Jewish tradition and the love for his first wife and muse Bella.

Between 1937 to 1945 Chagall created a triptych to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the October Revolution in Russia, titled in sequence *Resistance*, *Resurrection*, *Liberation*, these paintings are on permanent display at the *Chagall museum in Nice*. The final preparation version for *Liberation* will be included in the exhibition, on loan from a private collection.

This exhibition offers a unique opportunity for the London public to see works from various periods of Chagall's extensive career covering themes of Jewish tradition and his home town of Russia.