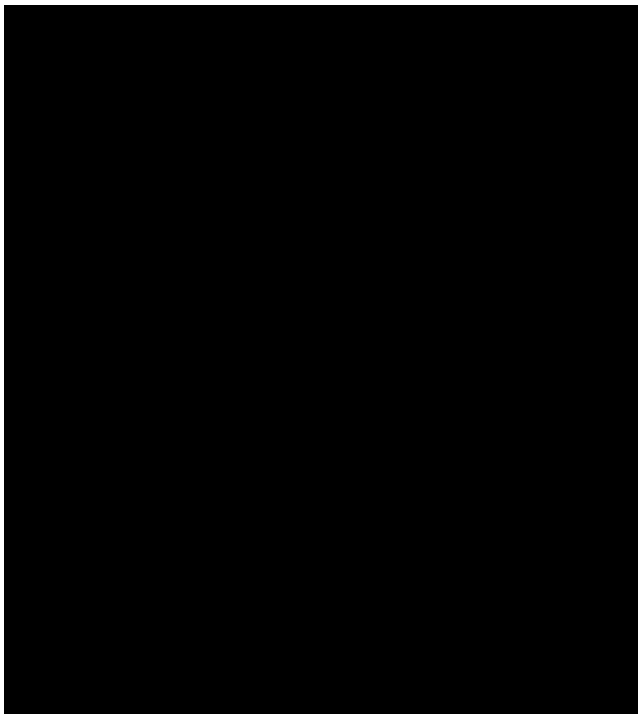
Marc Chagall

1887-1985 | Russian

Couple sur lit

M.S. Rau
FINE ART • ANTIQUES • JEWELS

OVERVIEW



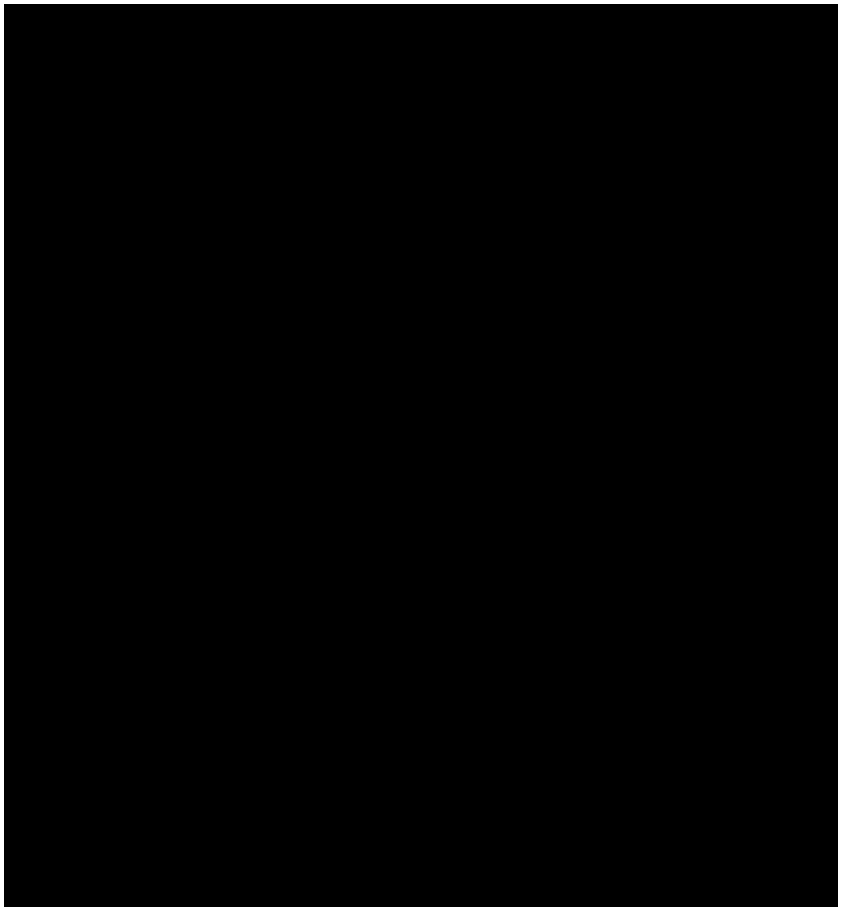
Marc Chagall's exquisite work, *Couple sur le lit*, completed in 1952, epitomizes the motif of a lover's embrace—a theme recurrent and highly sought after throughout his illustrious career. Additionally, this work serves as a tribute to Chagall's native Russia, a motif that defines his oeuvre. Chagall's works in warm, vibrant tones—specifically those rendered in reds and oranges—strongly evoke the passion of love the artist so fervently sought to portray and are among the most desirable of his works.

The motif of lovers is a hallmark of Chagall's masterpieces, often symbolizing his deep affection for his first wife, Bella Rosenfeld, and his grief upon her death in 1944. In this remarkable composition, a couple overlooks a Russian cityscape inspired by the artist's birthplace—his beloved village that was destroyed during World War II. Instead of succumbing to resentment over this and the many other tragedies he endured, Chagall employed bold, intense colors and dream-like settings to reflect the emotional turbulence of his life. After initially rejecting vibrant pink and red hues during his mourning for Bella and his displacement during the Second World War, Chagall eventually returned to these bright colors as a testament to the adversities he had overcome. This use of color solidified Chagall's reputation as a master colorist in his later works, with his red hues being among the most coveted in his palette.

The beautiful female figure in this painting is bathed in warmth, and sits upright on the bed, implying her impending departure. Her companion, rendered in cool blue, reclines. His body is positioned towards her as if pleading with her to stay, likely a nod to the effects of war or, more profoundly, to life's fragility. The painting's ability to convey universal themes of love, loss and resilience through Chagall's distinctive visual language makes it a compelling visual narrative.

In his lifetime Chagall produced an incredible body of work that continues to demand the highest attention in the art community. Today, his works belong to the collections of prestigious museums across the globe including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Guggenheim Museum in New York, Tate Modern in London and the National Museum of Modern Art in Paris. The intense use of color and thematic depth in this painting is similar to works in the collections of top institutions, such as *Les Amants au ciel rouge* (*Lovers in the Red Sky*), 1950, at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

This work is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity issued by the Comité Marc Chagall. •



Marc Chagall
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Couple sur le lit (Couple in bed), 1931-52

Signed "Marc Chagall" (lower right)
Oil and India ink on canvas

Canvas: 22 3/4" high x 20 1/2" wide | 57.79 x 52.07 cm
Frame: 31 3/8" high x 28 7/8" wide x 1 1/2" deep | 76.69 x 73.34 x 3.81 cm

PROVENANCE

Estate of the artist

Private Collection

M.S. Rau, New Orleans

[redacted]		**Marc Chagall**
	Title	Nu rose ou Amoureux en rose
	Description	Marc Chagall (1887-1985)Nu rose ou Amoureux en rosesigned 'Marc Chagall' (lower
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	1949
	Size	Height 31.9 in.; Width 25.6 in. / Height 81.1 cm.; Width 65 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Christie's New York: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 [Lot 0012B] Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale
	Estimate	1,200,000 - 1,800,000 USD
	Sold For	4,279,500 USD Premium
[redacted]		**Marc Chagall**
	Title	Le couple aux deux bouquets
	Description	MARC CHAGALL (1887-1985)Le couple aux deux bouquetssigned 'Marc Chagall' (lower
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	1982
	Size	Height 39.5 in.; Width 28.7 in. / Height 100.3 cm.; Width 73 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Christie's London: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 [Lot 00044] 20th Century Evening Sale
	Estimate	1,000,000 - 1,500,000 GBP (1,379,310 - 2,068,965 USD)
	Sold For	2,002,500 GBP Premium (2,762,069 USD)
[redacted]		**Marc Chagall**
	Title	Le couple
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	1958-1973
	Size	Height 32.1 in.; Width 25.6 in. / Height 81.5 cm.; Width 65 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Sotheby's New York: Wednesday, May 3, 2006 [Lot 00030] Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale
	Estimate	2,250,000 - 3,250,000 USD
	Sold For	2,480,000 USD Premium

[redacted]		**Marc Chagall**
	Title	Paysage à Peyra-Cava ou Les amoureux à Peyra-Cava
	Description	Marc Chagall (1887-1985)Paysage à Peyra-Cava ou Les amoureux à Peyra-Cavasigned
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	Circa 1930-1931
	Size	Height 28.3 in.; Width 23.1 in. / Height 72 cm.; Width 58.8 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Christie's New York: Sunday, November 11, 2018 [Lot 0061A] Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale Including Property from the Collection of Herbert and Adele Klapper
	Estimate	1,200,000 - 1,800,000 USD
	Sold For	2,172,500 USD Premium
[redacted]		**Marc Chagall**
	Title	Le couple au-dessus de Paris
	Description	oil on canvas64.8×80.5cm (25)1980ssigned on the lower rightsigned on t
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	Circa 1980-1989
	Size	Height 25.5 in.; Width 31.7 in. / Height 64.8 cm.; Width 80.5 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Seoul Auction: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 [Lot 00091] The 161st Art Auction
	Estimate	2,300,000,000 - 3,500,000,000 KRW (2,022,068 - 3,077,060 USD)
	Sold For	2,300,000,000 KRW Hammer (2,022,068 USD)
[redacted]		**Marc Chagall**
	Title	COUPLE SUR FOND ROUGE
	Medium	Oil on Canvas
	Year of Work	1983-1983
	Size	Height 31.9 in.; Width 25.8 in. / Height 81 cm.; Width 65.5 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Sotheby's London: Tuesday, December 4, 1990 [Lot 00036] IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURE PART I
	Estimate	1,000,000 - 1,250,000 GBP (1,926,040 - 2,407,550 USD)
	Sold For	990,000 GBP Premium (1,906,779 USD)

Marc Chagall | *Les Amants au ciel rouge*

1950

Medium: Oil on canvas
Dimensions: $25^{5/8}$ x $26^{1/8}$ inches | 65.09 x 66.36 cm

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
San Francisco, CA, United States

Marc Chagall | *The Lovers*

1913-14

Medium: Oil on canvas
Dimensions: $42^{7/8}$ x 53 inches | 108.9 x 134.6 cm

The Metropolitan Museum of Art
New York, NY, United States

Marc Chagall | *The Lovers*

1929

Medium: Acrylic, charcoal and pastel on canvas
Dimensions: $21^{5/8}$ x 15 inches | 55 x 38 cm

[redacted]

[redacted]

Tel Aviv Museum of Art
Tel Aviv, Israel

M.S. Rau

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