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| Chagall, Marc (1887-1985) |
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| Marc Chagall was a Russian-Jewish Modernist painter who lived in Paris for a substantial portion of his life. In Russia, after the 1917 Revolution, he was named the Commissar of Arts for Vitebsk, where he built and developed an art institute. He would soon leave the school over disputes regarding Kazimir Malevich’s strict adherence to Suprematism. Chagall’s work includes a wide array of media including painting, stained glass, textiles, prints, and stage sets. His family history and time spent in France and the United States give him and his work a unique perspective which bridges Eastern and Western modernist traditions. The sources and influences that he drew upon included Jewish folk culture, Symbolism, Cubism, and Fauvism. His friendships with members of the western European avant-garde, including Robert Delaunay and Guillaume Apollinaire, allowed him to develop strong connections in the Parisian art world. His paintings are known for their experimental, expressive, and bold use of colour as well as the poetic, figurative compositions which largely call upon the visual surroundings of his childhood. His major works include monumental-scale stage sets for opera and theatre productions in Paris and New York. |
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