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MARC CHAGALL (1887-1985)

Les mariés sous le baldaquin c. 1978-80 Signed lower right, "Marc Chagall" oil on canvas 23 ½ x 31 ½ in. (81.1 x 60.1 cm)



PROVENANCE

Galerie Lelong, Paris Private Collection Galere Boulakia, Paris Private Collection, acquired from the above, September 16, 2003 Sotheby's New York: November 8, 2007, lot 427 Private Collection, acquired from the above sale Sotheby's Paris: June 1, 2016, lot 17 Private Collection, acquired from the above sale

EXHIBITION

A Certificate from Comité Marc Chagall dated May 27, 1997 accompanies this work

IMPORTANT FACTS

- The definitive authority on the authenticity of paintings by Marc Chagall, the Comite Marc Chagall inspected this painting in 1997 and provided this letter of authenticity.
- Les Mariés sous le baldaquin (The Bride and Groom under the Canopy) was begun as the artist entered his 90th year, a man who had known tragedy and strife, but who never forgot life's moments of rapturous pleasure.
- Using a golden toned emulsion combining oil and opaque, water-based gouache, the warmth, happiness, and optimism of Chagall's usual positivism is wrapped in a luminous radiance suggesting the influence of gold-leaf religious icons or early Renaissance painting that sought to impart the impression of divine light or spiritual enlightenment.

DETAIL IMAGES







TOP PAINTINGS SOLD AT AUCTION



Les Amoureux 1928 oil on canvas 46 x 36 in. (116.8 x 91.4 cm)

Sold at Sotheby's New York: November 2017 for \$28,453,000



Le Grand Cirque 1956 oil on canvas 63 x 122 in. (159.5 x 308.5 cm)

Sold at Sotheby's New York: November 2017 for \$16,034,000

TOP PAINTINGS SOLD AT AUCTION



Anniversaire 1923 oil on canvas 32 x 39 ½ in. (81.2 x 100.3 cm)

Sold at Sotheby's New York: May 1990 for \$14,850,000



Les Trois Cierges 1939 oil on canvas 51 ½ x 38 in. (130.2 x 97.1 cm)

> Sold at Christie's New York: May 2017 for \$14,583,500

COMPARABLE PAINTINGS SOLD AT AUCTION



Le Modéle 1972 oil on canvas 32 x 25 ½ in. (81 x 65 cm)

Sold at Sotheby's New York: May 2022 for \$3,964,000

Similar size to Les mariés sous le baldaquin

Same motif, featuring a couple and a painting of a couple being married under a canopy as in *Les mariés sous le baldaquin*

Clown en Jaune 1979 oil on canvas 36 x 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (92 x 65 cm)

Sold at Sotheby's New York: May 2022 for \$3,196,000

Painted same time as Les mariés sous le baldaquin

Similar size to Les mariés sous le baldaquin



COMPARABLE PAINTINGS SOLD AT AUCTION



Couple au Cirque 1980 oil on canvas 39 ½ x 32 in. (100 x 80.8 cm)

Sold at Christie's Hong Kong: December 2021 for \$3,728,500

Features a couple as in Les mariés sous le baldaquin

Painted same time as Les mariés sous le baldaquin

Les Fleurs de Vence 1979-80 oil on canvas 29 ¾ x 39 ½ in. (103 x 75.5 cm)

Sold at Sotheby's New York: May 2017 for \$2,772,500

Same period as Les mariés sous le baldaquin

Same theme, featuring a couple getting married



CHAGALL PAINTINGS IN **MUSEUM COLLECTIONS**



The Guggenheim New York

The Flying Carriage 1913 oil on canvas 42 x 47 ¼ in. (106.7 x 120.1 cm)

The Metropolitan Museum of Art New York

The Lovers 1913-1914 oil on canvas 42 % x 53 in. (108.9 x 134.6 cm)



CHAGALL PAINTINGS IN **MUSEUM COLLECTIONS**



Museum of Modern Art New York

I and the Village 1911 oil on canvas 75 x 59⁵/₈ in. (192.1 x 151.4 cm)



The Israel Museum Jerusalem

The Lovers 1937 oil on canvas 42 ½ x 33 ½ in. (108 x 85 cm)

AUTHENTICATION

The definitive authority on the authenticity of paintings by Marc Chagall, the Comite Marc Chagall inspected this painting in 1997 and provided this letter of authenticity.



"If I create from the heart, nearly everything works; if from the head, almost nothing."

Marc Chagall

HISTORY



Marc Chagall. Photo by Jean Pierre LothINA

The world of Marc Chagall cannot be contained or limited by the labels we attach to it. It is a world of images and meanings which form their own splendidly mystical discourse. *Les Mariés sous le baldaquin (The Bride and Groom under the Canopy)* was begun as the artist entered his 90th year, a man who had known tragedy and strife, but who never forgot life's moments of rapturous pleasure.

Here, the dreamy delights of a Russian village wedding with its arrangements of well-worn attendees are brought to us with such happy wit and cheerful innocence that there is no resisting its charm. Using a golden toned emulsion combining oil and opaque, water-based gouache, the warmth, happiness, and optimism of Chagall's usual positivism is wrapped in a luminous radiance suggesting the influence of gold-leaf religious icons or early Renaissance painting that sought to impart the impression of divine light or spiritual enlightenment.

Using a combination of oil and gouache can be challenging. But here, in *Les Mariés sous le baldaquin*, Chagall employs it to give the scene an otherworldly quality, almost as if it has just materialized out of his mind's eye. Its textural delicacy creates the impression that light is emanating from the work itself and gives a spectral quality to the figures floating the sky.



Marc Chagall in Paris, 1933 Photographed by André Kertész

Marc Chagall The Promenade, 1917

