# MARC CHAGALL

*Belarusian-French, 1887–1985*

Marc Chagall was one of the most celebrated and enduring figures of the European modern movement—an artist whose work defied easy categorization and whose influence stretched across painting, printmaking, stained glass, and theatrical design over a career spanning seven decades.

Born in Vitebsk, in present-day Belarus, Chagall moved to Paris in 1910, where he immersed himself in the radical artistic currents of Montparnasse alongside Modigliani, Léger, and Delaunay. The city proved transformative. His work absorbed the structural lessons of Cubism and the color intensity of Fauvism while remaining entirely his own—dreamlike, deeply personal, and rooted in the folklore and memory of his Eastern European upbringing.

Chagall's paintings are immediately recognizable: floating figures, luminous color, and a poetic blending of the earthly and the spiritual that gives his canvases an almost musical quality. Works such as *I and the Village* and *The Birthday* established him as a singular voice in modern art, equally embraced by the avant-garde and the broader public.

Following years in France, the United States, and eventually the south of France, where he settled permanently, Chagall produced an extraordinary late body of work. He died in Saint-Paul-de-Vence in 1985 at the age of 97, leaving a legacy represented in the collections of the world's most important museums.