

Chagall e il Mediterraneo

October 9, 2009 – January 17, 2010

Edited by Claudia Beltramo Ceppi and Meret Meyer

At Palazzo Blu the exhibition will be showing 150 works of art including paintings, sculptures, ceramics and lithographies, created by the Russian artist from 1926 on, when he first came in contact with the light, colors and landscape of the Mediterranean sea and the countries facing it – France, Greece and the Holy Land.

This exhibition is the first part of a triennial cycle dedicated to the big masters of the twentieth century art and to their relationship with the Mediterranean traditions, light and cultures. This show will be featuring Joan Miró in 2010.

The Pisan fall will be lit up by Chagall's warm colors. **From October 9, 2009 to January 17, 2010, the Palazzo Blu rooms will host the exhibition "Chagall e il Mediterraneo".**

This initiative opens the program that will characterize the exhibit activities of the new Institution – BLU palazzo d'arte e cultura – created by Pisa banking society Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Pisa, with the aim to be a new reference point in Pisa when it comes to creation and support of local cultural events.

Chagall and the Mediterranean is in fact the first section of a triennial exhibition cycle dedicated to the great protagonists of the twentieth century art and to their relationship with the Mediterranean traditions, light and cultures. Joan Miró will be the protagonist of next year fall.

Chagall and the Mediterranean, curated by Meret Meyer and Claudia Beltramo Ceppi, is being promoted by *Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Pisa*, in collaboration with the Municipality of Pisa. It is being organized and made by *Giunti Arte mostre musei* services, in collaboration with AVIS Car Rental, Trenitalia, COOP, SAT – Pisa International Airport. It will be presenting **150 works of art including paintings, sculptures, ceramics and panels selected from the historical editions of Tériade** – on loan from some of France's most important state institutions, including the Musée National Marc Chagall in Nice, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Musée Matisse Le Cateau Cambrésis and several private collections, that the Russian artist created from 1926 on, when he first came in contact with the light, colors and landscape of the Mediterranean sea.

All these elements, in fact, contributed to turn Chagall's art into a more airy and sensual painting, where the magic of colors becomes predominant, transforming his canvases, ceramics, lithographies into bright spaces. Here the color becomes independent, dragging along the figures and characters populating the area.

The exhibit journey will be divided into five sections that will analyze the big topics that Chagall, once exile from his native Russia, faced his new artistic life with: the discovery of a landscape and light far different from his experiences in Vitebsk, Paris and Berlin.

In the first section **The French Riviera**, about twenty great paintings, including renowned masterpieces such as "Music", "The Red Circus", "Lovers in St. Paul", "The big bouquet of flowers", will be showing the change in the painter's palette between the mid of the twenties and the beginning of the thirties. A series of big black-and-white paintings and several temperas will testify his willingness to express air and light by using various tools and techniques.

The second section, **Greece**, will be presenting the full series of 42 canvases and some gouaches representing Dafni and Cloe, that will render the emotions Chagall felt when he discovered the Mediterranean classical civilization.

"The Wall of tears" and "Jerusalem landscape", the view of Vilnius synagogue, of the years before the war, will be the prologue to The Bible section, which plays a crucial role in Chagall's work. The series of panels dedicated to Tériade's **La Bible**, the extraordinary preliminary watercolors and especially the great paintings depicting the crucifixion of Christ dressed in Jewish clothes, will portray the importance and the strength the artist was approaching this subject with.

The exhibition closes with the sections dedicated to sculpture, ceramics and collage. In the first section, Chagall's willingness to take possession of the earth – working it with fire - of his new country pushed him to work in ceramics and to try, also with sculpture, a sort of voluntary confrontation with the classical art born on the borders of the Mediterranean sea. About ten ceramics along with their corresponding gouaches as well as several sculptures will be documenting this aspect of his activity. In the second one, Chagall's perhaps less popular works will be shown. Towards the end of his life, as it often happens with the big artists who have been experiencing everything, Chagall devoted himself to the creation of a few dozens of collages made of different materials, - such as lace, cloth, part of paintings and drawings - in a sort of limit-free creativity. A catalogue from Giunti Arte mostre musei accompanies the exhibition, with the essays from the curatrixes Gioia Mori, Tamara Karandasheva and the texts from Vivianne Tarenne, Sylvie Forestier, Gaston Bachelard, Meyer Shapiro.

Rome, September 17, 2009