

CHAGALL for children

Teacher Guide for the Treehouse Tour

Treehouse is pleased to have a wonderful traveling exhibit visit the museum during the fall of 2011. Featuring the art of popular 20th Century artist Marc Chagall, *Chagall for Children* is a world-class exhibit that showcases 14 multi-sensory exploration stations, each incorporating a high-quality reproduction of one of Marc Chagall's works.

Prior to your visit:

1. Chagall is known for his child whimsical, childlike, fantastical paintings. He is usually classified as a “modernist,” an expressionist, and a surrealist but never a “realist.” He is known for his use of color and shape to abstractly represent his memories and feelings rather than to accurately portray reality. In fact, his art has even been described as painted poetry. Chagall said, “Great art picks up where nature ends.” Prepare your students to appreciate Chagall's art by discussing this statement and exploring art as expression vs. art as realistic portrayal. What does Chagall mean by “where nature ends?” Do your students value one kind of art over another? How would they characterize the art they themselves create? Is it realistic? Is it representative?
2. Much of Chagall's art is based upon personal experience. He grew up in a small Jewish village in Russia before being educated in France. Of the influence of his childhood upon his art he said, “If I were not a Jew: I wouldn't have been an artist, or I would be a different artist all together.” Have the children consider their own backgrounds and personal experiences. What about each of your students' lives and experiences makes his or her art unusual or different from the art of other children in the group? Have each child create a simple piece of art based upon a personal experience or upon his or her cultural background.
3. Read and discuss stories about art, particularly about Marc Chagall and/or other favorite artists. Some favorites include:

Dreamer from the Village: The Story of Marc Chagall by Michelle Markel and illustrated by Emily Lister

Marc Chagall: Life is a Dream by Marc Chagall and Brigitta Hopler

The Dot by Peter H. Reynolds

Harold's Circus by Crockett Johnson

Little Mouse's Painting by Diane Wolkstein

During your visit:

On Treehouse's *Chagall for Children* tour, students will get an in-depth experience in the Chagall exhibit, create a Chagall inspired art project, and perform in a Treehouse ParticiPlay™ with Chagall inspired costumes. Your visit will also include up to 25 minutes of exploration time for students to explore the Museum's exhibits in small groups with their adult chaperones.

After your visit:

Following your tour at Treehouse, courtesy of the Utah Office of Museum Services and R.A.M.P., each teacher will receive a booklet containing ideas for post-visit classroom activities and additional resources to help make your visit meaningful beyond the Museum experience.

Treehouse School Tours are designed to assist teachers in meeting state and national core objectives in Fine Arts, including Theater and Visual Arts, Language Arts, and Social Studies. Please contact us if you have questions about how Treehouse's curriculum meshes with your curriculum.

In addition to the Language Arts objectives that shape every Treehouse tour, the *Chagall for Children* tour at Treehouse focuses specifically on the following Fine Arts standards for grades 3-6:

Visual Arts

Standard 1 (Making): The student will explore and refine the application of media, techniques, and artistic processes.

Standard 2 (Perceiving): The student will analyze, reflect on, and apply the structures of art.

Standard 3 (Expressing): The student will choose and evaluate artistic subject matter, themes, symbols, ideas, meanings, and purposes.

Standard 4 (Contextualizing): The student will interpret and apply visual arts in relation to cultures, history, and all learning.

Theater Arts

Standard 1 (Playmaking): The student refines the planning phase of the informal theater process through the creation of classroom dramatizations based on personal experiences and heritage, imagination, literature, and history. Playmaking most often leads to improvised theater with a beginning, middle, and end.

Standard 2 (Acting): The student refines the playing or performance phase of the informal theater process through cooperating, imagining and assuming roles, exploring personal preferences and meanings, and interacting in classroom dramatizations...involving sensory and emotional awareness, rhythm and movement, pantomime, vocal expression and oral communication, improvisation, and some formal presentation...

Standard 3 (Understanding Art Forms): The student refines the examining phase of the informal theater process by comparing, connecting, and incorporating art forms and by describing and analyzing methods of presentations and audience responses for theater...with the intent to enhance the student's introduction to and interaction with live theater performance from the audience viewpoint...

Standard 4 (Analyzing and Constructing Meanings): The student refines the evaluating phase of the informal theater process through explaining personal preferences and constructing meanings in responding to improvised and scripted scenes and in responding to theater... with the intent to enhance the student's ability to analyze and construct meanings from interactions with theater...

The *Chagall for Children* exhibit and its associated programs are generously funded by

UTAH OFFICE OF
MUSEUM SERVICES



Treehouse Museum is a nonprofit, educational organization whose mission is to be the magical place where children and families "Step into a Story."

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