

## Inauguration of the National Marc Chagall Museum – 07/07/1973

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*Dominique Bromberger:* The Biblical Message by Chagall is the star attraction at the National Museum that opened today in Nice. His paintings depict the main frescoes of the Bible and as Chagall says, “everyone should feel here the ideals of fraternity and love that my colors and my lines dreamed of.” But Chagall wanted to make this place something more than just a museum. A place for study and meditation. Around the biblical message, several activities can develop, such as libraries, temporary exhibits, and concerts. Maurice Druon and André Malraux attended the inauguration of this museum this morning and Bernard Régis asked them what they thought.

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*Maurice Druon:* What’s here is very important. In every way, not just in terms of pictorial art itself, but in terms of thought. And also a comprehension of a comprehension between a man, a country, a nation, and the history of humankind. All this and all that is signified completely inside this monument. So you have to come often. Stop. Meditate. Let me stand in for you for a moment and ask to become the interviewer and ask Marc Chagall what he’s feeling today.

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*Marc Chagall:* I’m not a poet, you know. A fantasist to express... I’m completely... I’m not saying I’m lost, I never get lost, only and especially in my paintings. And today, I only had to thank France, the government who also happens to be present here, Malraux and the new minister for their confidence in me.

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*André Malraux:* Since Venice, we haven’t tried even once a pictorial ensemble that plays on surface and on color. What’s happening here is something we’d tried once. It’s called the Pantheon. It’s absolutely dreadful. For the first time since the Palais des Doges, there is in this room, in this edifice, a pictorial ensemble that can rival the world’s greatest, and that hadn’t existed for 300 years. You see.

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*Dominique Bromberger:* You’ve just listened to Maurice Druon, then Marc Chagall, then André Malraux.