

Marc Chagall Decorated by the President of France – 02/12/1977

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Jacques Chabot: The highest honor for the great painter Marc Chagall. The President of France decorated him with the *Grand-Croix de la Légion d'Honneur* at the Élysée [presidential palace]. This distinction recognizes great artists as the equals of heads of state, President Giscard d'Estaing emphasized during the ceremony, reminding us that France is proud to have been chosen by Marc Chagall. The painter himself pointed this out as well, when Alain Trampoglieri asked for his thoughts.

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Marc Chagall: Here, I was born again. I was born for the second time in France. I accept [this honor] because I admire the President and the ministers. I accept. Otherwise, you know, I don't need... It's a sign of love. It isn't an honor. It's a sign of love. In France, it's awarded when we love something very deeply. Oh yes, I feel, yes, I feel, it's love. It's not just any tribute.

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Alain Trampoglieri: Master, this is a grand moment in your life. Has today been moving for you, this moment in your life?

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Marc Chagall: Yes, yes, of course.