

Marc Chagall on his stained-glass windows for the Notre-Dame de Reims cathedral –
01/01/1974

00:00:07

Host: You've chosen three themes, the history of the Kings of France, the history of the tribes of Israel, and the Passion of Christ.

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Marc Chagall: You know, I can't say that I actually knew the Kings of France. I can't say that I knew Joan of Arc, and who did know her? But, well, I looked into it. Then I thought it would have to be a world, our world, these will be our friends, our prophets and our kings, the best kings, the best prophets, since... You know?

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Host: You chose the color blue as a theme.

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Marc Chagall: Oh that, I said that again, it's our...it was my friend Charles Marq who said, and he was right 1000 times over, that it's the only color that will last sturdily in this cathedral. It's because its down below and, up above, those are the old masters, twelfth and thirteenth centuries. It's the only color that lasts. No other color. There are other colors in there, but over there, it's apparently a turdy color.

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Host: Three years of work to complete these stained-glass windows.

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Marc Chagall : Yes, I must admit, three years isn't enough. You need 80 years, even more.

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Host: An entire lifetime.

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Marc Chagall : To be bold, you have to, you know, Abraham always hypnotized me in this studio of Charles Marq...

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Host: And do you like teamwork, with the workers?

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Marc Chagall: In the studio? Oh yes, I love the workers there! Oh my goodness! Artisans from the studio of Charles Marq, oh yes!