

[The Marc Chagall - The Bible Series](#)

This is series of affordable original lithographs.



Featured image - Esther from the Bible Series

Russian-born painter and designer, Marc Chagall (1887-1985), established a reputation as one of the best-loved artists of the 20th century. His work was dominated by two rich sources of imagery; memories of the Jewish life and folklore of his early years in Russia; and the Bible.

“Ever since my earliest youth I have been fascinated by the Bible. I have always believed that it is the greatest source of poetry of all time...The Bible is an echo of nature, and this I have endeavoured to transmit.... In art everything is possible, so long as it is based on love.”

The illustrations for the Bible were commissioned in 1930 by Vollard, a Paris art dealer, and started on a trip to Palestine. World War II interrupted the work, which was finally completed in France in the early 1950s. The first lithographs, printed by the great French lithographers Mourlot Frères, were published in 1956. They were met with such high acclaim that Chagall made a further set, which was published in 1960.

“Whenever I bent over the lithography stone...it was as though I was touching a talisman. It seemed as though I could pour all my sadness and joys into it.”

Meyer Shapiro called Chagall one of the greatest religious artists of all time, and these lithographs show why: powerful drawing, intense colours, and, most of all, compassion for the characters.

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