

Letter from Meir Dizengoff to Marc Chagall

Tel Aviv, March 30th 1930

Letter in French

Marc and Ida Chagall Archive, Paris

Meir Dizengoff, Mayor of Tel Aviv, speaks to Marc Chagall about his project involving the creation of an art museum in his city. He states that he has met with two artists to such effect, Mr. Aronson and Mr. Lachowsky, and invites Chagall to participate in the meeting that will be organized in order to debate on the possibilities of developing said project.

Letter from Meir Dizengoff to Marc Chagall

Tel Aviv, October 17th 1930

Letter in French

Marc and Ida Chagall Archive, Paris

Regarding the foundation of an art museum in Tel Aviv.

Marc Chagall on Palestine

c. 1931

Text in Russian

Marc and Ida Chagall Archive, Paris

Chagall reflects on his impressions of Palestine during his recent trip and mentions the pioneers of Zionism, such as his friend Mier Dizengoff, founder and Mayor of Tel Aviv.

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When I am fifty years of age and not ill, I will not cease to come and celebrate the first pioneers of Zionism for any reason.

In general, my "Zionist" psychism goes back to my recent trip to Palestine. Only the blind and wicked Jews cannot see what is happening there and are insensitive to the country's unusual charm. I don't know if you think that it's easy for me to write words in this way... Many are pronounced in this world, but I cannot stand it, and the words I use to describe my impressions of Palestine can be counted with my fingers. I am not surprised by the skepticism and the tiredness of some Jews with regard to Palestine. I am irritated by the contemptuous smile of the assimilated Jews. It is because they haven't a bit of poetry in their hearts.

If Jews were good at politics we would not have spent two thousand years in ghettos, and Moses would have had a different approach from the beginning. One sole politic has been cultivated among Jews, that of patience... But I also understand the way of thinking of my friend Dizengoff, one of the pioneers of Zionism; as we speak, he works hardly, slowly, but justly on Palestine.

Marc Chagall painting in Palestine

1931

Marc and Ida Chagall Archive, Paris

Exhibition print

Fanny Clar,
«La Fontaine travesti à l'orientale»
[La Fontaine in Oriental Style Costume]

Le Soir, February 19th 1930

Press article in French

Marc and Ida Chagall Archive, Paris

Regarding the critical reception of the *Fables of La Fontaine* illustrated by Marc Chagall.

“Le métèque et l'étranger” **[“The Metic and the Foreigner”]**

Le Figaro, September 4th 1930

Press article in French

Marc and Ida Chagall Archive, Paris

Regarding the *Fables of La Fontaine* illustrated by Marc Chagall.