

Letter from Lazar Shupakevitz to Marc Chagall

New York, February 15th 1944

Letter in English

Marc and Ida Chagall Archive, Paris

Lazar Shupakevitz, Executive Secretary of the National Labor Committee for Palestine in New York, gives Marc Chagall an update on the latest elections held at the Committee and informs him of his naming as a member of the Education Committee of the European Friends of the Histadrut.

Letter from Louis Levine to Marc Chagall

New York, March 18th 1944

Letter in English

Marc and Ida Chagall Archive, Paris

The president of the Jewish Council for Russian War Relief thanks Marc Chagall from New York for his contribution toward the third annual congress of his organization, whose objective is “to settle the debt of honor with the Soviet people”.

***Homage to the Salon d'Automne,
Salon de la Libération***

New York, Pierre Matisse Gallery, 1944

English exhibition catalog

Marc and Ida Chagall Archive, Paris

**Dinner organized at the
Commodore Hotel in New York by
the American Committee of
Jewish Writers, Artists and
Scientists in honor of
F. Z. Goldberg**

October 13th 1946

Marc and Ida Chagall Archive, Paris

Facsimile

Marc Chagall is seated at the table of honor under the flag
of the United States.

Marc Chagall, speech for the *Eynikeyt* magazine evening event

January 13th 1946

Text in Yiddish

Marc and Ida Chagall Archive, Paris

Chagall advocates persuading leaders not to overlook the suffering and misfortunes of the Jewish people and their national aspirations.

AMIC-3A-0006-015

And we, the unfortunate ones, exhausted from our suffering and grief, must muster our breath and bravery to convince the world and its leaders that they lack a little character to lead us. We must convince them that overlooking the suffering and misfortune of the Jewish people and their national aspirations will result in the worst of moral failures. A silence that would destroy consciences in the way the atomic bombs have destroyed the Japanese cities.

Marc Chagall,
Yizkor, la prière du souvenir
[*Yizkor, The Prayer of Remembrance*]

1946

Sepia ink on laid paper

Private collection

Facsimile

Illustration for the book *Yizkor Buch. Poètes, peintres, écrivains*, Paris, Union des Juifs pour la Résistance et l'Entraide, 1946

Marc Chagall, demand for a punishment against the genocide perpetrated by the Germans

late 1940s

Text in Yiddish

Marc and Ida Chagall Archive, Paris

In this unpublished text written in Yiddish, related to two photographs of the Majdanek concentration camp, whose date undoubtedly coincides with the first trials against Nazi war crimes in the Polish city of the same name, Chagall calls for justice for the five million Jews that were murdered.

AMIC-3A-0006-005

Investigation and Punishment

[Two Photographs of the Majdanek Concentration Camp]

I have looked at two photographs from a German newspaper that portray the horror of Majdanek: a lime oven with human ash and bones, and the other with a heap of shoes.

If I had the strength I would paint two more pictures:

- firstly, the fatal plummet of Germany, based on the works of its great artists, like Cranach and Dürer, ending in the current "paintings" produced by the broad-brush painter Hitler;

- secondly, the desert of the German soul, infested by blood-stained weeds, where a lively and pulsating sentiment in favor of art and life will never grow again.

[...]

If the peoples refuse to punish the Germans for the five million Jews that were murdered, they will carry those supplementary crimes with them, along with those perpetrated by humanity against the Jewish people over the course of the last two thousand years. And in this way they will carry the conscience of inequity upon their shoulders...

For all intents and purposes, a new era begins in the world: the era in which we are ruled solely by our conscience.

In consequence, neither us, nor our children will be able to live or create as long as our soul has not been cleansed like a suffocating night is cleansed by the dawn of a new day.]

Marc Chagall, "Poland/Ghetto" [About Germany]

undated

Text in Yiddish

Marc and Ida Chagall Archive, Paris

In this text Chagall expresses his rejection and pain in the face of the Nazi horror.

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I feel nothing for you, murderous people. No matter how you regret, your tears will always be mud and nothing more. You will be buried in the ashes of my brothers and their blood will drown you. But God has punished you: you do not even have the remedy of insanity. It is much worse: you are like a wild beast, but are not even an animal. We humans are repulsed to see that you still live among us on this Earth.

**Hersh Fenster,
Undzere farpaynikte kinstler
[*Our Martyred Artists*]**

1951

Book in Yiddish

Centre Medem, París

Yiddish edition of *Our Martyred Artists*, a commemorative book on the School of Paris artists deported from France, with a preface by Marc Chagall.