The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

Artist: Marc Chagall

Title: *Galerie Maeght, 25 Mai - 31 Juillet (Lady with Green Hair)*

Medium: limited edition poster

b. 1887, Belarus d. 1985, Saint-Paul-de-Vence

Born in Belarus in 1887, Marc Chagall attended the traditional local Jewish school but afterwards succeeded in entering the area's Russian high school, where he excelled in geometry and drawing. Determined to become an artist, he first studied locally in the studio of Yehuda Pen (1854–1937), at the same time earning his keep by retouching photographic negatives, a skill that helped finance his studies in St Petersburg from 1907 to 1910, where he lived in the city's Jewish ghetto.

He achieved notoriety in Paris in 1910–14 with his imaginative subjects, with titles often invented by his friend the poet Blaise Cendrars: his studio was in La Ruche, an artists' colony where he made the acquaintance of a number of artists including Modigliani. Though he preferred to be known as a Belarussian artist, following his exile from the Soviet Union in 1923 he was recognized as a major figure of the École de Paris, especially in the later 1920s and the 1930s.

A prolific artist, Chagall excelled in the European tradition of subject painting and distinguished himself as an expressive colourist. His work is noted for its consistent use of folkloric imagery and its sweetness of colour, and it is characterized by a style that, although developed in the years before World War I, underwent little progression throughout his long career. His works often contain strong elements of fantasy, and share an affinity with the dream imagery of the Surrealists.

His work is held in many prestigious collections around the world, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, the Guggenheim Museum New York, the National Museum in Nice, the Tate Modern in London and the Art Institute of Chicago.