



FS Colour Series: Eggplant inspired by Marc Chagall's Love and Flowers

## Description







## Les Amoureux / Marc Chagall / 1928

[EGGPLANT linen](#) rich plum tone bled into Marc Chagall's whimsical scenes, colouring them with stains as tart and ripe as fresh blackberries. Inventive colour was a vital strand in his fantastical scenes, taking his famous floating lovers, animals and musicians further from the realms of reality into a wondrous, escapist dream. He wrote, "Colour is everything, colour is vibration like music; everything is vibration." Impassioned purples came to embody the hue of life and love, especially when painting his lover Bella, who he saw surrounded by "blue air, love and flowers".

Born as the eldest of nine siblings in the Belarussian town of Vitebsk in 1887, Chagall had a painfully poor childhood. Though he called Vitebsk a "strange town, an unhappy town, a boring town," he escaped into the wilderness to fire up his imagination through drawing and play. Early art training came from a local portraitist and Chagall soon discovered his true calling in life; by the age of 19 he had moved to St Petersburg to train with the Imperial Society for the Protection of Fine Arts. Marred by poverty, Chagall often skipped meals so he could buy art materials.



## FS EGGPLANT Softened 100% Linen

Russian artist Leon Bakst first introduced the young Chagall to the Parisian avant-garde. Chagall was blown away, so much so he managed to finance a move there in 1911 with support from a member of Russia's elective assembly. Following a return to Russia in 1914, Chagall met and fell for the



wealthy intellectual Bella Rosenfeld, marrying her in 1915. He eventually took Bella and his young daughter back to Paris again after the First World War in the 1920s. In the gloriously romantic *Les Amoureux*, 1928, Chagall paints himself and Bella locked into an embrace, while inky berry shades form blooms around his lover with the searing passion of their unbreakable love.

Chagall remained in Paris with his young family for many more years, remaining hugely prolific and slowly finding an audience for his art through the dealer Ambroise Vollard. In *The Bridal Pair with the Eiffel Tower*, 1939, Chagall and Bella become the famous âfloating lovers,â one of the artistâs most timeless motifs. This time it is Chagall who is plunged into an enveloping shade of deep blushing crimson as he sweeps his bride upwards with him towards heaven.



## Green Violinist (Detail) / Marc Chagall / 1923-24

In 1940 Chagall moved with his family to New York to escape Nazi persecution and darker times led his paintings to become increasingly complex, hidden with a myriad of personal symbolism. In the deeply complex artwork *The Juggler*, 1943 a curious hybrid bird creature leaps across the air while onlookers observe the strange performance from below. Below them a juicy pool of dark raspberry opens out into a bottomless void, pulsing with the fiery intensity of a beating heart.

After leaving the United States for a return to his beloved France, Chagall's artworks reverted to the simpler frivolity of his early career, as demonstrated by the light-hearted *Blue Violinist*, 1947. A moonlit blue light emanates from the canvas but it is shot apart by searing shades of blazing orange, red and a delicious jam purple that bring the character's warm, glowing musicality to life. In his later self-portrait *The Painter in front of the Easel*, 1949 at 69 Chagall strips colours back to just two; iridescent blue and a deep plum that stains his body with juicy vibrancy. The artist's outstretched arm paints the floating lovers while above them a strip of rich dark crimson, a shade Chagall came to call 'the colour of love' unites them together as one.

## [FS EGGPLANT Softened 100% Linen comes in Midweight](#)

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1. TEXTILES

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