

FINE ARTS

Visit 'The World of Marc Chagall' at Park West

BY LANA MENDI
STAFF WRITER
L.MENDI@HOMECOMM.NET

The glorious works of Marc Chagall, one of the 20th-century's most influential and innovative artists, carry a richly evocative theme of peasant life as pleasant life.

Chagall's work was influenced by Cubism and the Fauvists. His work is infused with inspirations from Jewish life and folklore featuring rich color, flowers and floating humans and animals in states of utter jubilation.

The masterpiece etchings and lithographs by Chagall included in "The World of Marc Chagall" are on exhibit through April at Park West Gallery in Southfield.

"Every fan of great modern art should be here," Park West Gallery Director Morris Shapiro said.

"It's quite a rare opportunity to view a collection like this in its entirety — usually collections with such masterpieces are only visible at museums."

The collection contains work that was initially considered unusual, and even boring, at the



Etched in stone: "Le Buisson" (The Burning Bush) is one of 105 etchings comprising "La Bible" by Marc Chagall. When the series was created during the 1930s, biblical-inspired art was considered passé — of course, Chagall's work was an exception.

time. "La Bible" is part of Chagall's series of Biblical images considered passé and overdone when

"La Bible" was originally commissioned by infamous collector Ambroise Vollard who was known for paying artists, like Pablo Picasso, insultingly-low sums for their work.

he created them in the 1930s. A glimpse, however, at his lush use of watercolor and dreamy images reveal Chagall was anything but boring.

"La Bible" was originally commissioned by infamous collector Ambroise Vollard who was known for paying artists, like Pablo Picasso, insultingly-low sums for their work. But Chagall, who, at the time, was an up-and-coming artist had a friendly working relationship

with Vollard.

Shapiro describes the images in "La Bible" — and especially in his poetic series "Cirque" — as tranquil and joyous celebrations of the human spirit. The images depict acrobats, animals and trapeze artists surrounded by intense colors of blues, reds, greens and pinks.

A masterful graphic artist, Chagall began creating his lithographs and etchings early in his career, which spanned eight

Exhibit
What: "The World of Marc Chagall," an exhibition and sale
Where: Park West Gallery 29469 Northwestern Highway, Southfield
When: Through Thursday, April 27. Exhibit hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday/Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday-Friday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday.
For Information: Call (248) 354-2343

decades and consisted of more than 1,000 fine art prints. Chagall died in 1985 at the age of 88.

MOT waltzes proudly to Strauss' famous opera

BY FRANK PROVENZANO
STAFF WRITER

fprovenzano@homecomm.net

Don't expect David DiChiera to gloat. It's not his style. But forgive him, if he manages even the slightest smug expression.

This Saturday, DiChiera will once again stretch the notion of what is possible when the Michigan Opera Theatre presents *Der Rosenkavalier*, a lushly orchestrated opera by Richard Strauss. It is the first-ever performance of the early 20th-century opera at the acoustical gem located in downtown Detroit's theater district.

Since it was first performed in 1911, *Der Rosenkavalier* is considered one of the most performed German operas written in the 20th century. Among Strauss other popular operas are *Salome* and *Electra*.

Der Rosenkavalier is filled with waltz rhythms that require an enormous orchestra. More than 100 instruments are used. In addition to traditional instruments, the orchestra requires harps, Glockenspiel, tenor drum, bells and castanets.

"With the Opera House, we can now perform all the magnificent works," said DiChiera, founder and general director of MOT.

While Strauss' poem works portrayed emotion with a thorough orchestration, his palette is much broader with the characterizations and melodrama of opera, said DiChiera.

"With Strauss, the orchestration is an equal partner with the operatic singing and story," he said. "The criticism of the sound is overwhelming."

While the waltz was a 19th-century development, *Der Rosenkavalier* blends the social sensibilities of the 18th century

On Stage

What: "Der Rosenkavalier," an opera by Richard Strauss
When: Opening — 8 p.m. Saturday, April 15; performance times — 2 p.m. Sunday, April 16, and April 30; 8 p.m. Saturday, April 16, and April 22
Where: Detroit Opera House, at the corner of Madison Avenue and Broadway, Detroit
Tickets: \$18-\$98; call (313) 237-3429 or (248) 645-6666.

with the romantic music inspired by Mozart. In opera, anachronisms are hardly a concern.

The MOT production features one of the few family acts in opera. Helen Donath will sing the role of Marcelline. Meanwhile, her husband, Klaus Donath conducts the orchestra and her son, Alexander Donath directs the production.

While *Der Rosenkavalier* is a fairy story about a woman who faces the middle-age realities of being stuck in an arranged marriage, the theme of longing for passionate love is unmistakably universal.

In the melodramatic tradition, the opera follows the 32-year-old Princess Marcelline, who fears growing old, and the lover's triangle among her, her 17-year-old lover and the young girl who falls in love with him.

Long before the Detroit Opera House opened at the corner of Madison and Broadway in 1996, DiChiera was considered either a visionary for his promising talk about the future of the downtown theater district.

Then again, to some DiChiera was thought to be a modern-day Don Quixote.

Several months after last fall's sold-out performances for

Andrea Bocelli's operatic debut in *Werther* at the Detroit Opera House, DiChiera's vision is an unquestionable reality.

Perhaps the best indication of the fledgling cultural area and MOT's success are increased ticket sales and the lack of parking.

The two Sunday matinee performances fall on the same dates as Detroit Tigers' afternoon home games. With Comerica Park located across from the Opera House, patrons and baseball fans will compete for parking.

All in all, an enviable problem. And maybe a reason to gloat.

FREE "LIVING TRUST" SEMINAR
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MSU Management Education Center
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MILFORD
Wed., Apr. 12
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Coffee & Cookies
Bakers of Milford
2025 S. Milford Road

FARMINGTON HILLS
Thurs., Apr. 13
10:00-11:30 am
Coffee & Cookies
Farmington Community Library
32737 W. 12 Mile Road

ROCHESTER
Thurs., Apr. 13
7:00-8:30 pm
Coffee & Cookies
Rochester Public Library
816 Ludlow

BLOOMFIELD
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Michigan Guild of Artists and Artisans celebrates 30 years

PRNewswire — This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Michigan Guild of Artists and Artisans.

Starting in the spring of 1970, a group of 125 young artists from Ann Arbor began working on an art fair for local artists and craftspeople along with students from the University of Michigan. At the time, the Ann Arbor Art Fair was comprised of two fairs that were organized by two local merchant groups. The festivities of that summer marked the birth of what later became The Michigan Guild of Artists and Artisans and the Ann Arbor Summer Art Fair.

It has since become the largest of the three fairs that comprise the Ann Arbor Art Fairs as well as the most successful art fair in the United States.

The Michigan Guild's Ann Arbor Summer Art Fair will take place Wednesday-Saturday, July 19-22. For more information on

events held by The Guild, call (734) 662-2222. In 1973 fair artists met to create a permanent organization to manage the new fair, which had grown to 250 artists. During these early days, fairs were sponsored by The Guild in the Michigan Ballroom, fall fairs were held on Sundays at the Farmers' Market and an art fair was held in Greetown in downtown Detroit.

As years passed, The Guild quickly outgrew its office space that had been located in the Michigan Union at the University of Michigan. The Guild formed an independent, non-profit corporation, changed its name and moved to its present building at 118 N. Fourth Avenue in Ann Arbor.

Today The Guild has approximately 1,300 professional artist members and has held constant with 540 booths at the Summer Art Fair since the late seventies.