

Sotheby's Modern Art Afternoon, New York May 4, 2006



MARC CHAGALL

1887-1985

MOI ET MON AMOUR

Signed *Marc Chagall* (lower left)

Gouache and crayon on paper

24³/₈ by 19¹/₄ in.

62 by 49.5 cm

Executed *circa* 1929.

The authenticity of this work has kindly been confirmed by the Comité Chagall.

PROVENANCE

Robert Lebel, Paris

Edwin E. Hokin, Chicago

Klaus Perls, New York

Sale: Suttgarter Kunstkabinett R. N. Ketterer,

Stuttgart, *May 3, 1962*, lot 53

Private Collection Switzerland

EXHIBITED

University of Chicago, *Chagall*, 1958, no. 28

Moi et Mon Amour combines many of Chagall's favorite themes, most importantly the lovers and the floral bouquet. Unlike many of his compositions which often mix an array of animals, people and landscapes in one picture plane, *Moi et Mon Amour* is a cohesive composition, expressing a single narrative. The densely filled sheet is bisected diagonally with the flowers dominating the upper left and the lovers, enfolded in a comforting embrace, filling the lower right.

Susan Compton writes, "When he was younger, Chagall disliked being told that his art was literary or even poetic, because he wanted to suppress narration in his work in favor of the means of expression... throughout his paintings Chagall introduces human beings, who may be arranged in an illogical manner, but who are constant reminders that art is above all a celebration of the humanity of mankind" (*Chagall*, (exhibition catalogue), London, 1985, p. 242).

\$250,000-350,000