

4th Grade Art Institute Presentation : focus on Marc Chagall's "America Windows"

**After presenting the power point presentation on the Art Institute of Chicago... We then took a more detailed look at Marc Chagall's "America Windows" which was created by the artist for the Art Institute of Chicago in 1977 to celebrate the U.S. Bicentennial. This stained glass artwork celebrates the country as a place of cultural and religious freedom, detailing the arts of music, painting, literature, theater and dance.*

Marc Chagall :

- Born in 1887 in a small village in Russia
- as a kid he didn't like school... other than geometry and art (lines, angles, color)
- he wanted to be an artist so as a young man he moved to Paris where he lived most of his adult life
- during WWII he lived in the United States
- he died in 1985 at the age of 98
- he worked in many mediums... paint, stained glass, ceramics, mosaic
- his work was influenced by the **vivid colors and geometric structures of cubism**
- he was one of the first artists to **express the inner world of dreams, fantasies and memories**
- his work is best known for it's **luminous color and magical imagery.**

America Windows :

- dedicated to the city of Chicago in **1977** by Chagall to commemorate **America's bicentennial**
- created for the **Art Institute of Chicago** after the enthusiastic response to his mosaic, "The Four Seasons," located in the Chase Tower plaza
- the windows are **8ft. tall x 30ft. long**
- the glass panels were fabricated based on Chagall's drawings by stained glass artist Charles Marq
- Chagall painted the designs onto the glass using metallic oxide paints that were permanently fused to the glass
- **the windows paint a romantic picture of the American Dream... celebrating the country as a place of cultural and religious freedom, detailing the arts of music , painting, literature, theater and dance.**

MUSIC <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chicago's rich history of rhythm and blues- musicians- instruments- musical score	ART <ul style="list-style-type: none">- paint palette- paint brushes- canvas- still life fruit bowl	LITERATURE <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Books- writing desk- writing utensil	FREEDOM <ul style="list-style-type: none">- symbols of peace- Statue of Liberty- dove, olive branch	THEATER <ul style="list-style-type: none">- masks- stage curtains- candelabra	DANCE <ul style="list-style-type: none">- dancers- performers- tambourines
Panel 1		Panel 2		Panel 3	

As a **class project, the students then created a "Class Window" - a celebration of the many unique talents and individuals of their 4th grade classroom. The students were each given a square piece of watercolor paper and were instructed to draw one icon that symbolizes them as a person, their passion, their talent (instrument, sports, dance, art, love...) in oil pastels using thick black lines and bright colors. They then covered the drawing in a blue wash (watered down acrylic blue paint). Once the paintings were dried, they were mounted together on a large black banner to create one large piece of art... "Their Classroom's Window."*