

True Characteristics of Chagall's Blue in His *Blue Lovers* (1948-53)?

KONISHI Maiho
MA Student, Kansai University

Chagall's *Blue Lovers* (1948-53) had been produced during 1941-1948. In 1944, Chagal's wife suddenly died, and he had stopped painting for about 9 months. After that, he created a lot of "paintings that mourned the death of his wife". It is often said that *Blue Lovers* is also such a painting. The purpose of this presentation is to clarify that Chagall's *Blue Lovers* has life and vitality as opposed to death.

Chagall's "Blue Lovers", written by Mr. Akira Kogishi in 2009, describes the blue used in this work as the one which strongly contains the elements of Kabbalah. Also, he claims that it represents the blue of "The tree of death". It is found in the greatest religious book *Zohar* in Kabbalah. From his research, it is clear that *Blue Lovers* is a work that is deeply influenced by the death of his wife, and you can see that it is interpreted as one of the "paintings that mourned the death of his wife". On the other hand, some experts argue that *Blue Lovers* was not made to mourn the death of his wife. There is a work called *Around her* (1945) which is certainly one of the "paintings that mourned the death of his wife" because the blue of this work emotionally expresses the feelings of sorrow. However, the blue in *Blue Lovers* is another thing. The work shows the signs of change to blue which can also be seen in the stained glass of his later works.

This presentation refers to Rudolph Steiner's color theory in order to reinterpret the viewpoint of the color centered on blue in the work, *Blue Lovers*. Chagall and Steiner belong to the Freemasons and have common thoughts. Based on Steiner's color theory, it shows that *Blue Lovers* has the nature of the sapphire blue in "The tree of life", not the blue of "The tree of death".