Назва музея

Адрас

месца, дата

To Whom It May Concern

Not so long ago, while visiting the museum, I paid attention to the paintings by Marc Chagall, the world-known artist born in Belarus. I was extremely disappointed that the museum shields attribute him as “born in Russia” or “Russian”. It is not actually true.

I am Belarusian and I know that Marc Chagall was born into a Jewish family in Vitsebsk, the territory of Belarus, which was at that time occupied by the Russian Empire. I am convinced that there is no more place for Russia’s imperialist remnants in the modern world, and Marc Chagall should be fairly called an “artist born in Belarus”.

I will also quote here the arguments by the internationally recognized Belarusian art expert Siarhei Khareuski on why we should connect Chagall and Belarus,

“*Marc Chagall was born and raised in Vitsebsk. In Belarus, where all his ancestors lived from time immemorial, including his great-grandfather, Mordukh Segal, who painted synagogues in Belarusian towns.*

*In addition to exclusively local, Belarusian roots, Chagall received his entire education in Belarus, starting from kindergarten and school to the actual artist's school, at Yehuda Pen’s school. He studied in Russia for one and a half years only — at the Zvantseva School of Drawing and Painting in St. Petersburg and from the master, his compatriot from Belarus, Léon Bakst.*

*And then Chagall returned to Belarus.*

*Moreover, Marc Chagall restored the system of art education in Belarus. It exists till now. Branches of his Vitsebsk Art School were founded in other Belarusian towns — Polatsk, Vorsha, Lepel.*

*You can call Chagall a "Russian" artist on the basis of his Russian citizenship. But then — according to the same argument — you should call all the artists from occupied territories of Finland, Poland, Lithuania, and Georgia active at that time "Russian" as well*.”

So, according to Mr. Khareuski, a correct Chagall’s attribution would be “Belarusian and French artist of Jewish origin”. At least it would be correct to sign Marc Chagall as “the artist born in Belarus”.

Thank you for reading this message. I hope that my letter will initiate the first (or next) step towards the fair Marc Chagall and other Belarus born artists' attribution in the (назва музея) museum and everywhere in the world.

I will be glad to receive an answer to my proposal.

Sincerely yours,

імя, прозвішча