

Life as a Legend

Marilyn Monroe



Marilyn Monroe, New York City, 'Ballerina' Sitting in Tutu, Milton H. Greene, 1954, Silver gelatin print, © 1994 Milton H. Greene Archives, Inc. *One night with Marilyn, Horizontal Classic*, Douglas Kirkland, 1961, Silver gelatin print

Life as a Legend: Marilyn Monroe captures the spark, sex appeal and sensation that was Marilyn Monroe through the art of Andy Warhol, Allen Jones, Peter Blake, Richard Avedon, Bert Stern, Henri Cartier-Bresson and many others. This vivid and diverse exhibition of more than 300 objects captures Marilyn's rise to stardom through works by more than 80 artists in styles ranging from fashion photography to Pop Art. Documenting the iconic life of America's favorite sex symbol, this exhibition showcases one of the world's most famous and intriguing women.

A visual voyage of Monroe's rise to stardom, the exhibition begins with Tom Kelley's Red Velvet Pose for Playboy and continues with the sensuous bed sheet shots, *One Night with Marilyn*, Douglas Kirkland photographs. Also shown is the once newly rehabilitated, revived and slender Marilyn Here's to You photos with champagne glass in hand, celebrating her entrée back into Hollywood, during the poignant *The Last Sitting* by Bert Stern.

Life as a Legend depicts recognizable moments in Monroe's film career, such as the famous subway grate scene with Thomas Ewell in *Seven Year Itch* by Sam Shaw, and also portrays the pensive behind the scenes shots of the *Misfits* by Ernst Haas. In addition to the introspective lens of Shaw, Haas, Kelley, Kirkland, Stern and others, artists such as Andy Warhol and Mel Ramos and other more avant garde artists such as Antonio de Felipe and Yasumasa Morimura offer their various Marilyn interpretations. The diversity of the exhibition allows the viewer to enjoy and remember all the facets of the charismatic Marilyn through the fashion photography and Hollywood moments as well as exploring deeper to revisit and explore the tender vulnerability of this captivating legend.

She came into the world as Norma Jean Baker, but cast off her humble beginnings to become Marilyn Monroe. She was known as much for her classic films such as *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Bus Stop*, *Seven Year Itch*, *Some Like it Hot* and *How to Marry a*

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Marilyn Collage, Bernard of Hollywood, 1986, silver gelatin print © by Bruno Bernard by kind permission of Susan Bernard

Millionaire, as for her celebrity marriages and rumored liaisons. Though her life ended far too soon, the world's fascination with Marilyn Monroe's magnetic appeal and much publicized private life has continued to thrive over time. There has never been another Marilyn, a unique personification of femininity, naïveté and sexuality. For decades artists have been inspired by Marilyn to create their own works complementing the instantly recognizable bombshell figure, platinum hair and dazzling smile. Marilyn Monroe personifies glamour, Hollywood and sensuality.

The death of Marilyn Monroe remains a mystery as does the private woman behind the myth of Marilyn. However, *Life as a Legend*, Marilyn Monroe celebrates the many sides of this 1950's glamour goddess and immortal legend. "Real beauty and femininity are ageless and can't be contrived. Glamour can be manufactured."
—Marilyn Monroe

Exhibition Specifications

Number of works:

More than 300 works including paintings, mixed media, works on paper, photography, film stills, and DVDs documenting Monroe's life

Organizer:

Artoma in Hamburg, Germany, circulated by IA&A

Participation fee:

\$10,000/week plus costs of outgoing shipping

Requirements:

High security, approximately 900 linear feet

Shipping:

IA&A makes all arrangements, exhibitor pays outgoing shipping costs within the contiguous U.S.

Availability:

June 2011 – October 2011

Bookings:

See enclosed exhibition schedule

Contact:

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