

DAYTON DAILY NEWS - APRIL 22, 2007

# Life & Arts

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## 'LIFE AS A LEGEND'

Marilyn Monroe exhibition comes to DAI

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## How to go

**What:** 'Marilyn Monroe: Life as a Legend.'

**When:** Saturday through June 24.

**Hours:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, with extended hours on Thursdays and Fridays until 8 p.m.

**Where:** Dayton Art Institute, 456 Belmonte Park N.

**Tickets:** Adults \$14; seniors, students and groups of 10 or more \$12; ages 7 to 18, \$7. Museum members and children 6 and younger admitted for free. Combination tickets may be purchased that include the exhibit and the play 'Marilyn: Forever Blonde.' Tickets may be purchased at the Dayton Art Institute, or by calling, toll-free, (800) 296-4426 or, locally, (937) 223-4ART (278), or by going online to [www.daytonartinstitute.org](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org). Group ticket sales and reservations may also be arranged.

**Docent-led tours:** Available at 2 and 6 p.m. Thursdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Free with the price of admission. Meet at the exhibition entrance.

**Parking:** Free.

**For more information:** [www.daytonartinstitute.org](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org).

**BELOW:** A photograph by Bob Henriques of the actress during the filming of 'The Seven Year Itch' in 1958.



'Remember ... You Can Do It Better With Air,' an anonymous silver gelatin print of Marilyn Monroe from 1954.

»More about 'Marilyn: Forever Blonde' on Life & Arts Page 16

# MARILYN

By Meredith Moss  
Staff Writer

She'll probably feel right at home with the voluptuous 16th and 17th century European beauties in the galleries above her.

Marilyn Monroe moves into the Dayton Art Institute next weekend.

In one of the largest exhibits ever at the museum, the five-gallery tribute to the sensuous starlet showcases the work of 80 prominent artists and includes nearly 250 paintings, prints and sculptures. Related attractions include a one-woman theatrical production that brings the blond bombshell to life through her own words, a video room where you'll watch clips of interviews with those who knew her and an exit shop featuring Marilyn merchandise.

"Marilyn Monroe: Life as a Legend" officially opens to the public Saturday and runs through June 24. The exhib-

it originates Europe and throughout ton.

So, why I museum?

"She's an icon," says I tor of Amer DAI. "She v was associa politicians e was a muse artists."

The exhib public and I includes wo Jones, Peter Bert Stern : Among tl

**Tom Kell Photos** of for *Playboy* Douglas

## DAI exhibit offers rev



**CLOCKWISE F**  
image from tl  
— Pin-Up' by I  
Milton H. Gre  
Marilyn Flow  
Stern's 1962 '

y, has toured  
other cities  
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ropean art at  
pretty face; she  
ellectuals and  
od stars, and  
ontemporary

looks at the  
of Monroe —  
Warhol, Allen  
ard Avedon,  
artier-Bresson.  
display:

is "Red Velvet  
the nude shot

sexy bedsheet

shots in the "One  
Night With Marilyn"  
series.

**Bert Stern's  
Here's to You,** a  
photograph of Mari-  
lyn with champagne  
glass in hand, cel-  
ebrating her entry  
back into Hollywood.

**The famous sub-  
way-grate scene**  
with Tom Ewell in  
*The Seven Year Itch*,  
as photographed by  
Sam Shaw.

**Ernst Haas'**  
**behind-the-scene shots of Marilyn**  
**on the set of *The Misfits*.**

"She represented so many things to  
so many different people," Snyder says.  
"She inspired a lot of contemporary art-  
ists to talk about social and political  
issues, and issues that deal with celebri-



'Marilyn Posing for Niagara,'  
a silver gelatin print by Bruno  
Bernard.

ty, certainly a hot-but-  
ton issue today."

Photos in the exhib-  
it range from the  
pin-up days as Nor-  
ma Jeane Baker to  
behind-the-scenes  
photos on film sets  
and at charity events.  
Though all of the pic-  
es in the exhibit are  
inspired by Monroe,  
some do not show her  
directly, such as Erwin  
Wurm's *Thinking  
About Marilyn*.

The exhibit was  
most recently at the  
Boca Raton Museum of Art in Florida.

Director of Marketing Bruce Herman  
reports it attracted a wide variety of  
patrons and was one of the best-ad-  
ded exhibits in museum history.

"You don't have to know a great deal

about art to understand and appreci-  
ate the beauty of this woman and recog-  
nize what a legacy she's created — the  
iconization of celebrity and the pop-art  
movement," says Herman, noting that  
today's celebrities such as Madonna and  
the late Anna Nicole Smith have emulat-  
ed Monroe's look and lifestyle.

For older folks, Monroe stirs up nos-  
talgic memories; a younger generation  
recognizes her images as the beginning  
of the pop-art movement.

Though in some ways the tragedy of  
a life cut short — Monroe was 36 when  
she died — and an underlying vulner-  
ability can be compared to Princess  
Diana on an emotional level, Snyder  
says the two DAI exhibits are dramati-  
cally different.

"This exhibit has no memorabilia, no  
dresses, no jewelry, no artifacts," she  
says. "It's a fine-art exhibit, and that's  
what the audience can expect."

They can also expect nudity.

The paint colors being used as a  
backdrop for the local exhibition have  
names appropriate to the feminine and  
sexy Monroe: velvet white, candy-apple  
red, soft pink and French toast. And, of  
course, champagne.

Snyder says it's the diversity of the  
exhibit that she finds most impressive.

"It really runs the gamut — there are  
wonderful, sensuous, black-and-white  
photographs, beautiful color photo-  
graphs that show her dynamic, viva-  
cious personality and stunning, com-  
plex, contemporary works of art that  
challenge us to think about Marilyn's  
persona and her celebrity.

"This exhibit allows all of us to walk  
away thinking about her and contem-  
porary culture in a new way," she says.  
"It is 45 years later, and her beauty tran-  
scends time. We really want audiences  
to come and be transfixed by that."

Contact this reporter at (937) 225-2440  
or mmoss@DaytonDailyNews.com.

## ing, poignant look into the life of a Hollywood icon



'Marilyn II,' a 1979 screen-print by Mimmo Rotella; a fine-art inkjet  
e Night With Marilyn' photo series by Douglas Kirkland; 'Norma Jeane  
ard; 'Ballerina,' a fine-art inkjet image of a 1954 photograph from  
yn Monroe, New York City collection'; 'En el Jardin de Hollywood  
acrylic-on-canvas by Antonio de Felipe; 'Here's to You' from Bert  
ting' collection.

