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# Dayton Art Institute hosting Marilyn exhibit

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If Marilyn Monroe were alive today, she'd be 80. But had she been blessed with longevity, she might not be a legend. Might not be the personification of youth and beauty so many are drawn to. She might not be considered the icon that defined an era.

Dayton Art Institute celebrates her life and influence in two unique ways. First, the exhibit, "Marilyn Monroe: Life as a Legend", showcases 250 pieces of art by 80 artists. Second, the one-woman play, "Marilyn: Forever Blonde", relives the movie star's life in a two-hour story provocatively performed by Sunny Thompson.

The exhibit is a reflection of society during a Post-War/Cold War Era. It reminds us that, when it comes to the American Dream, glory and downfall go hand-in-hand. Marilyn the icon lets us take a look at these aspects of our society.

The exhibit also lets us have a peak at the legend at her best and her worst. It chronicles her life from pin-up girl Norma Jean Baker to the aftermath of her death. We see her at her best and her worst.

We get insight into this fantastic woman's life and, somehow, into our own.

The art exhibit will be open everyday starting Saturday, which will be a special opening that includes a night with the star of the performance, the play and exhibition, and hoer d'erves with wine service.

Performances of "Marilyn: Forever Blonde" begin May 4 and will be offered on Wednesday,



Photo by Lisa Alexander

Sunny Thompson plays Marilyn Monroe, a one woman play.

Saturday, and Sunday at 2 p.m. and Friday at 8 p.m.

For more information, call 937-223-4278 or check out

online at [daytonartinstitute.org](http://daytonartinstitute.org).

Please note that both exhibit and play are intended for adult audiences as nudity is included in both.