

Exhibit explores magic of Marilyn

By JODI BROCK
Brown News Service
jbrock@tcnewsnet.com

"Real beauty and femininity are ageless and can't be contrived," Marilyn Monroe, from the "Marilyn Monroe: Life as a Legend" exhibition at the Dayton Art Institute.

Dayton Art Institute interim director Brad Tillson wasn't kidding when he noted that the "Marilyn Monroe: Life as a Legend" exhibit now on display contains both profound and profane images of the legendary icon.

The exhibit, which opened to the public on Saturday, April 28, was revealed to the media during a preview on Wednesday, April 25. Included in the exhibition are roughly 250 objects by 80 artists, including works from Andy Warhol.

The images showcase Marilyn's rise to fame, as a young Norma Jean posing for Playboy to the famous photograph of her standing over a subway grate during a scene in "The Seven Year Itch."

Tillson informed the crowd on hand for the pre-

view that he believed the Marilyn exhibition captured the many layers of Marilyn, and molded them into a cohesive and compelling story.

The exhibit includes a viewing room where many of Marilyn's films are featured.

While the photographs of Marilyn show several sides of the ill-fated actress, towards the end of the exhibit are several of the images created by various artists who explore Marilyn's own admission as being an "artificial product" of Hollywood.

Laine Snyder, the Assistant Curator of American and European Art at the Dayton Art Institute, offered this perspective of contemporary artist's Christian Blau examination of Marilyn's dark side of celebrity with "Overexposure, 2003."

"Blau ominously juxtaposes an eerie photograph of Norma Jean with the last photograph taken of Marilyn Monroe in the morgue," stated Snyder. "The work's title focuses on the disproportionate attention Monroe received in her lifetime, which many

believe contributed to her premature death."

Also part of the Marilyn exhibition is an intriguing one-woman play entitled, "Marilyn: Forever Blonde," which tells the story of Marilyn through her own words and music. Sunny Thompson, the actress who portrays Marilyn in the play, spoke to reporters Wednesday about how thrilling it is to step into Marilyn's shoes.

"She was very, very witty," said Thompson, adding that all Thompson thought Marilyn really wanted was "love and acceptance."

Thompson sings 17 songs in the two-hour performance, including Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend."

"Marilyn Monroe: Life as a Legend" runs until June 24. Performances of "Marilyn: Forever Blonde" will be offered on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. and Friday evenings at 8 p.m.

Tickets for both events can be purchased by contacting

The Dayton Art Institute at 223-4ART or by visiting www.daytonartinstitute.org.

Momtopia new virtual network to open at Dayton Mall

Dayton Mall has announced the launch of a new virtual community and resource designed specifically for today's time-starved and information-hungry moms and caregivers with young children 0-8 years of age. The online network, Momtopia, will go live on Mother's Day, May 13 and can be accessed through Dayton Mall's web site www.daytonmall.net.

The site will feature not only the mall's latest sales, family-based events and retailers, but also relevant information from a wide variety of sources that is intended to make a mom's life less hectic and a little more balanced.

"We learned that social networking sites have attracted almost 70 percent of moms

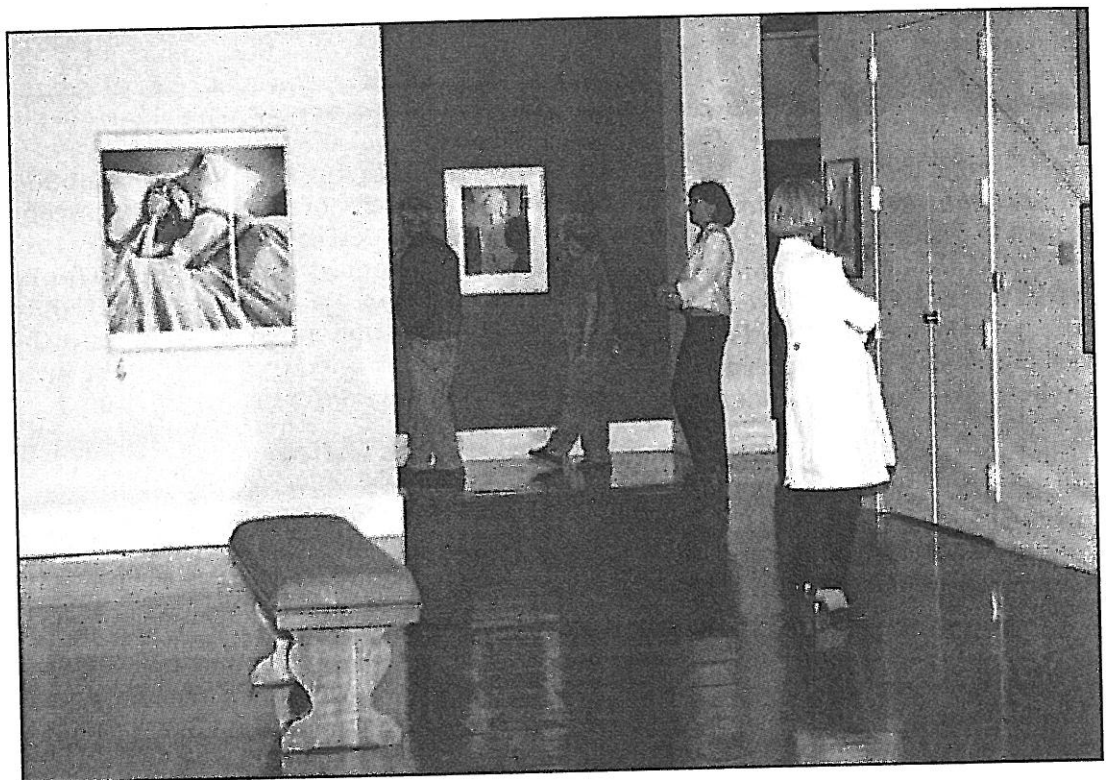
who are online. Momtopia is being launched so that Dayton Mall and our retailers can share information and connect with moms on a more personal level," said Dave Casper Marketing Director for Dayton Mall. "It also gives us the opportunity to facilitate the mom-to-mom sharing of advice and practical tips through the site's customer-generated advice columns," he added.

The Momtopia site will be divided into sections, each covering a different area of interest to moms and families. "Mom Space" will have information and links relating to health and wellness, parenting, entertainment and of course, shopping.

A gift giving reminder ser-

vice and an online "wish list" are also planned. "Kidding Around" will feature content such as how to find the best children's books, back to school ideas and tips for starting meaningful holiday traditions. The "Motherly Advice" area will enable moms from across the country to communicate with the mall and each other.

In addition to Momtopia's online components, moms who register to join the Momtopia community will also receive advance notice of special retailer promotions and occasional Momtopia family-based events. Dayton Mall's first Momtopia family event "Momtopia Monday" will be held on June 11 at 10am.



People examine the magic of Marilyn.

Youth explore themselves and art

The Middletown Arts Center is presenting their Spring Fling Exhibit titled "Tomorrow's Artists Today." The large gallery will be filled with these works through May 10.

This show only featuring works of high school students and includes many styles and many media. Items on display in this museum-like room include those in acrylic, pastel, colored pencil, pencil, oil, pen & ink, and mixed media. Items picked as subject matter included landscapes, faces, animals, and abstract subjects.

A total of fourteen students represent: Beavercreek High School, Hamilton Garfield School, Edgewood High School, McAuley High School, Miamisburg High School, Mason High School, McNicholas High School, Badin High School, and home schooled for this planned juried show. Student's ages ranged from 14 to 19.

Daniel Berner, 16, of Beavercreek, painted an acrylic titled "Dark

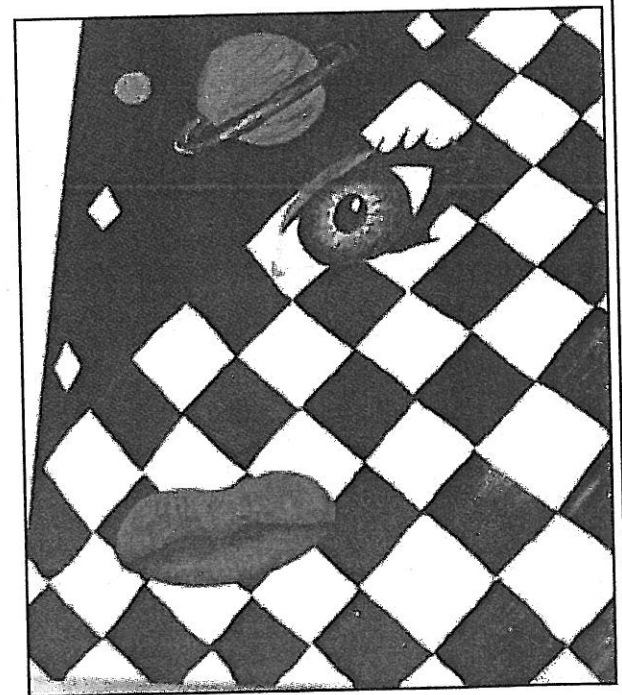


Photo by Cindy Eisen

This acrylic by Sarah Eisen titled "Sinking" shows a student lost in the world of education and gaming, losing themselves to the outer world.

from Miamisburg High School has several works displayed including: a pencil called "Voyant", an acrylic titled "Sinking", an oil

To complete the gallery, the "Miami University Middletown" show continues, with works of fourteen artists from: Middletown, Cincinnati, Oxford, and