



Fine Arts Center  
COLORADO SPRINGS

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## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## LIFE AS A LEGEND: MARILYN MONROE

### Nearly 300 works of art inspired by the Hollywood icon

**COLORADO SPRINGS** (April 3, 2008) – *Life as a Legend: Marilyn Monroe*, on exhibit at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center from May 3 – July 6, captures the beauty, sensuality and vulnerability of an American icon, who many have described as the sexiest woman of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

A special **Opening Celebration** for the exhibition will feature complimentary hors d'oeuvres and tours, a cash bar, music, artists, curators and a few surprises. Join us on Friday, May 2, 5-8 p.m. All FAC Members (\$7.50) and non-members (\$12) are welcome.

*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, Douglas Kirkland, Ernst Haas, Peter Blake, Richard Avedon, Bert Stern, Henri Cartier-Bresson and many others. This vivid and diverse exhibition of 286 objects showcases Marilyn's rise to stardom through works by more than 80 artists in styles ranging from fashion photographers to Pop painters to international contemporary artists.

"This exhibition provides an intimate look at the enchanting actress who charmed the world with her looks, vulnerability and innocence," said FAC Curator Tariana Navas-Nieves.

"We are happy to bring this special traveling exhibition to Colorado Springs. As an added treat, we've invited several local and regional artists to create their own original works of art inspired by Marilyn. We think that their contributions will make this blockbuster event even more memorable."

### *Experience Beauty*

- May 1 1st Thursday Tasting ... 5-8 p.m.
- May 2 **Life as a Legend: Marilyn Monroe**  
Opening Celebration ... 5-8 p.m.

### *Mother's Day Weekend*

- May 9 **Beauty and the Beast**  
Opening Night ... 8 p.m.
- May 10 **Gallery Trek** ... 10:30 a.m.  
**Styling the Modern**  
Fashion Show / Opening Celebration  
at the FAC MODERN ... 1 p.m.  
**Beauty and the Beast** ... 8 p.m.
- May 11 **Café 36 Returns!** ... 11 a.m.  
Treat Mom to brunch on the Patio  
**Beauty and the Beast** ... 2 p.m.  
**Mother's Day Sale** ... 10 – 5 p.m.

During her lifetime, the blonde bombshell captured the attention of the world's top photographers, who snapped shots of the dazzling star on the sets of her films and in more intimate moments. A visual voyage of Monroe's rise to stardom, the exhibition features the most famous photographs of Marilyn from the most recognizable moments of her film career; including Sam Shaw's iconic image of Marilyn standing over the subway grate from *Seven Year Itch*. Other exhibition highlights include Douglas Kirkland's bed sheet shot, *One Night with Marilyn*, Bert Stern's poignant *The Last Sitting*, showing a glowing Marilyn with a champagne glass in hand taken six weeks before her death, and, of course, Andy Warhol's *Marilyns*.

In the 1960s, Andy Warhol transformed Monroe into an iconic subject of the Pop Art movement, inspiring artists like Robert Indiana and Mel Ramos. Monroe's timeless appeal continues today as evident in works by Spanish painter Antonio de Felipe and Japanese artist Yasumasa Morimura, among many.

### **Added Attraction**

At the FAC, as a special addition to this exhibition, patrons will enjoy new, original works of art by local and regional artists based on the charismatic icon, including:

Louis Cicotello	Margaret Kasahara	Heather Oeklaus
Adam Conard	Scott LaFavor	George Sanchez
William Cummins	D.K. McDonald	Kat and Bob Tudor
Carol Dass	Stephen F. Morath	Floyd Tunson
Atomic Elroy	Jocelyn Nevel	Brett Wilson

### **About Marilyn**

It is startling to believe that a struggling actress "discovered" while inspecting parachutes for the army in 1944, became the most famous woman in Hollywood, with an acting career that spanned 16 years and 30 films. On the screen Marilyn became known for her sex appeal and comedic and serious acting in such classic films as *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Bus Stop*, *Seven Year Itch*, *Some Like It Hot* and *How to Marry a Millionaire*. The public was also fascinated with her personal love life from her celebrity marriages to baseball legend Joe DiMaggio and playwright Arthur Miller to her rumored liaison with then President John F. Kennedy.

The screen legend's alluring image has had a tremendous impact on the art world, beginning in the 1950s and continuing decades after her death even into the new century. In 2007, Marilyn was seen in an Apple iPhone commercial during the Academy Awards. Later that spring, "Lemon Marilyn," a portrait by Andy Warhol, which had sold for \$250 in 1962, went on the auction blocks for the first time, selling for \$28 million last May. Lindsay Lohan made headlines earlier this year by recreating the famous "Last Sitting" photos with photographer Bert Stern for the *New York* magazine.

*Life as a Legend: Marilyn Monroe* is sponsored by the El Pomar Foundation, Diet Pepsi, Wine Festival of Colorado Springs, KKTV 11 News, Tryba Architects, La Casita, Veda Salon and Spa, Alan & Barbara Steiner and Ron & Una Brasch.

**Photo Requests:** Contact Melissa Thompson at [mthompson@csfineartscenter.org](mailto:mthompson@csfineartscenter.org) or by calling 719.477.4350.

### **Admission, Hours**

The Fine Arts Center is located on the NW corner of Dale and Cascade. The FAC is open Tuesday-Friday and Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. on Saturday. Admission for *Life as a Legend: Marilyn Monroe* is \$7.50 for FAC Members and \$12 for non-members. For more information, visit [csfineartscenter.org](http://csfineartscenter.org).