

Exhibits

Photos, more photos—even photos of Marilyn Monroe.

By Mike May

Although May is National Photography Month, November seems to be a more appropriate time in Pittsburgh for the designation, with major exhibits at Carnegie Museum of Art and the Frick Art Museum along with photos of the legendary Marilyn Monroe at the Warhol. Read on for some snapshots about these events.

"ANDRÉ KERTÉSZ: ON READING:" OCT. 23-FEB. 13

Photography says visual imagery, right? Not the written word. Yet the imaginative focus in this show at Carnegie Museum of Art has us looking at photos of people (and some other creatures) caught in the act of reading.

You might think that concept seems a bit on the dull side, but not when captured through the lens of André Kertész, whose work is making its debut in Pittsburgh at Carnegie Museum of Art. Look for the beetle on the Voltaire novel or the cow peeking over the shoulder of a man looking at a newspaper. There's a skillful shot of a sculpture that mimics the pose of a man reading in an antiques shop. Observe Trappist monks, sunbathers, commuters, a boy enjoying the newspaper funnies. Travel with Kertész by train. Visit cafés, parks, street corners. And, oh yes, last but not least—libraries.

The theme featured in "André Kertész: On Reading" spans photos taken over 50 years and in various countries during the fertile career of Kertész (1894–1985), who was born in Hungary and lived in Argentina, Japan, France and the United States. Although receiving little acclaim through most of his lifetime, Kertész would influence such notable photographers as Berenice Abbott, Garry Winogrand, Lee Friedlander and others.

As Linda Benedict-Jones, curator of photography at the Museum of Art and organizer of the Pittsburgh presentation of "On Reading," explains, "In the digital age that surrounds us, where people read from computer screens, cell phones and electronic books of one sort or another, we sometimes forget that reading in the past always took place from a book, a newspaper or a journal." Benedict-Jones goes on to interpret Kertész's work in this exhibit as

"celebrating the love affair that people have with the written word as it exists within the soft pages of a book."

As a complement to the show, a special event, "Three Poems by..." Poetry Discussion Group, will be presented in conjunction with Carnegie Library on Thurs., Nov. 11, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Explore and discuss a trio of poems related to the Kertész exhibit. Registration for the free event is encouraged but not required. If you do register, you'll get the poems in advance. To register, call 412/622-3151 or e-mail newandfeatured@carnegieli-brary.org.

(Works on Paper Gallery, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland. Oct. 23-Feb. 13: Tue.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., noon-5 p.m. Adults, \$15; seniors, \$12; students, children 3-18, \$11; members, children under 3, free. Info: 412/622-3131, cmao.org)

"FOR MY BEST BELOVED SISTER MIA: AN ALBUM OF PHOTOGRAPHS BY JULIA MARGARET CAMERON:" OCT. 23-JAN. 2

Another time. Another place. Another photographer—a woman who received her first camera at age 48. Travel back to the 19th century for more photography and a different perspective at the Frick Art Museum. Julia Margaret Cameron (1813-1879), a well-known photographer of the Victorian era, left an impressive body of work, and "For My Best Beloved Sister Mia: An Album of



Julia Margaret Cameron (British, 1815-1879). Julia Jackson, 1865-1866. Albumen print from wet plate collodion negative. Collection of Michael Mattis and Judith Hochberg, courtesy of art2art Circulating Exhibition.

Photographs by Julia Margaret Cameron" presents one facet.

When Cameron lived on England's Isle of Wight, she would send photos to her sister Maria "Mia" Jackson along with instructions about how they were to be incorporated into an album. Portraits include Mia's daughter Julia Duckworth, the mother of writer Virginia Woolf, and photos of another literary lion: Alfred, Lord Tennyson, who, along with his family, was Julia's neighbor on the Isle of Wight.

In addition, Cameron also would send Mia work by other photographers, including prints by Oscar Gustave Rejlander (1815–1875), a Swede with whom she collaborated and shared a vision of having photography be taken seriously as a form of art.

These 70-plus images, often hauntingly beautiful, offer us a time capsule presented through a very personal medium: a photo album. This show, organized by art2art Circulating Exhibitions, dovetails well with the overall experience of being at Clayton, the home of the Henry Clay Frick family, and its collection of Frick family photographs.

The "Film at Noon" event on Fri., Nov. 19, will be *Fairy Tale: A True Story* (1997), a charming and somewhat spooky tale about some girls in England who captured fairies on film with their camera. It's free and open to the public.

(Frick Art & Historical Center, 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze. Oct. 23-Jan. 2: Tues.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Info: 412/412-371-0600, the frickpittsburgh.org)

"MARILYN MONROE: LIFE AS A LEGEND:" OCT. 23-JAN. 2

Photos are a major focus in a new show at The Andy Warhol Museum: "Marilyn Monroe: Life as a Legend" includes work by such luminaries as Richard Avedon, Henri Cartier-Bresson and Bert Stern in an exhibit that presents a visual timeline of this iconic American sex symbol.

More than 300 works are featured in "Life as a Legend," which was curated by Artoma, of Hamburg, Germany. Although photography is one aspect of the exhibit, visual art, including Pop, with work by Andy Warhol, also is a major component.

And no homage to Marilyn would be complete without her movies. This month the Warhol offers screenings on Nov. 12 and Nov. 19. Check the website for details. (117 Sandusky St., North Shore. Oct. 23-Jan. 2: Tues.-Thurs., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Adults, \$15; students, seniors, children 3-18, \$8; members, free. Info: 412/237-8300, warhol.org)