



PUSH

This week's artist
MARIANAS TRENCH**WHERE THE JERSEY SHORE
AND THE GULF COAST COLLIDE.**

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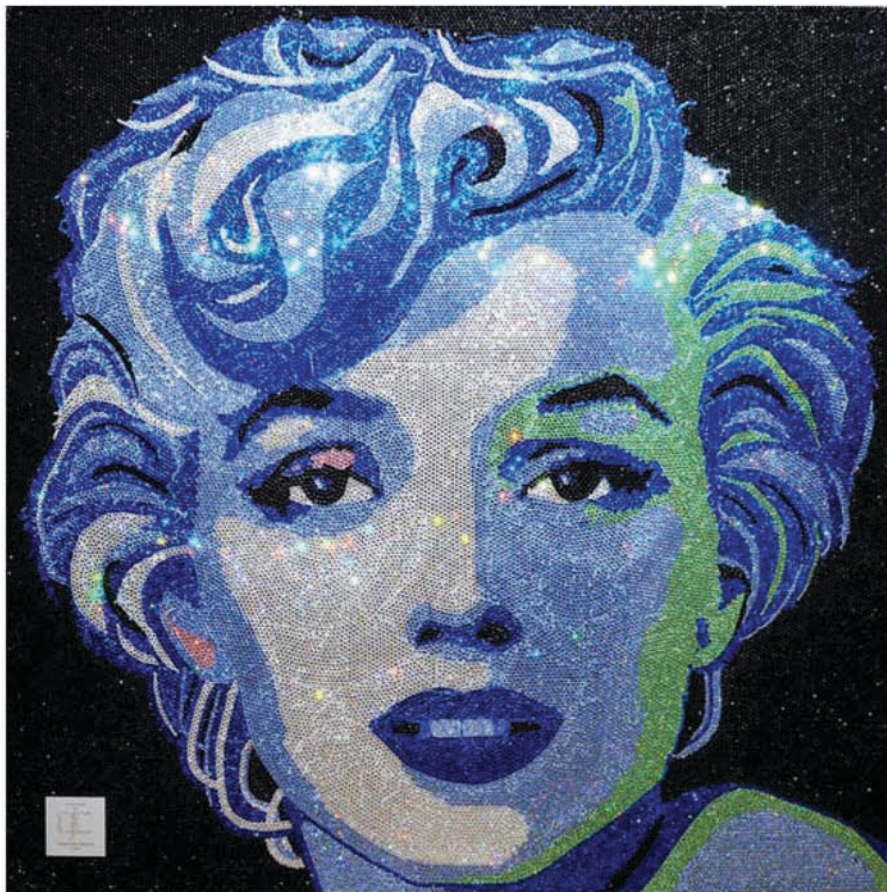
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Rihanna Buys \$160,000 Marilyn Monroe Artwork

Posted 13 hrs ago by Andi Teran in Let's Discuss



Artist Claire Milner's Swarovski Marilyn Monroe portrait commissioned by Rihanna.
Photo: Splash News

If you haven't been clued into the style world of **Rihanna** lately, let's just say you have a LOT of catching up to do. First of all, our multifaceted gal just landed a **fashion reality show** that will air in the U.K. this summer (no word on whether we'll get it stateside), and she also acquired a new **"Thug Life" tattoo**. It seems like she's truly enjoying her adopted hometown of Los Angeles too, as she's taken to attending **Lakers games** and Cirque du Soleil shows wearing American flag T-shirts and **head-to-toe leather**. It's also been reported that she's currently zhuzing up her L.A. pad and recently commissioned a \$160,000 Marilyn Monroe portrait made entirely of **Swarovski** crystals. Created by U.K. artist **Claire Milner** especially for Ri-Ri, the art piece took four months to finish, measures 5 by 5 feet, is covered in 65,000 crystals, and weighs 182 pounds. Let's discuss, shall we?

We did a little research on artist Claire Milner and found that she is a former graphic designer and freelance illustrator based in lovely York, England, who creates large-scale mosaic pieces "with a bright, naïve quality." She currently works in celebrity portraiture and sometimes sneaks text into the artwork as a sort of subliminal messaging bonus. She's also a member of BAMB (no relation to Emeril Lagasse), better known as the British Association for Modern Mosaic and, apparently, has clients that include private collectors, corporations, and, well, RIHANNA. It seems as if she's particularly proud of this Marilyn piece, as it looks to have been a painstaking accomplishment, and she even went so far as to show how it might appear in a pretend version of **Ri's house**.

Milner has created other celeb crystal pieces in the likenesses of **David Beckham** and **President Barack Obama**, and it makes us wonder who her next celebrity subject might be. Perhaps Rihanna *herself*? Wait, no, she's done that already in the form of a mixed-media portrait entitled **"Contemplating Rhianna"** complete with quotes, song lyrics, and some impressive mosaic vajazzling. Perhaps this is where Ri first discovered Claire Milner? Either way, **this** Rihanna portrait can adorn your wall for only \$4,500.

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AND PETA'S
LETTUCE BRAS
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