

# NEW YORK DOCUMENTING MONROE

In anticipation of this month's launch of the Simon Curtis film 'My Week With Marilyn', we are drawn to two magnificent coffee table volumes: 'Marilyn Monroe' by Bert Stern and Norman Mailer (TASCHEN, 2011) and 'Marilyn Monroe: The Complete Last Sitting' by Bert Stern (Schirmer/Mosel, 1982). TASCHEN's 'Marilyn Monroe', which can also be purchased in a Limited Art Edition of 125 numbered copies, each signed by Stern, contains Mailer's original text from his 1973 biography of the legendary actress, who is now said to be better known by her photographs than from her films. While 'Marilyn Monroe: The Complete Last Sitting', solely documents the acclaimed 1962 Vogue photo shoot of the Hollywood superstar by Bert Stern.

Most poignant, perhaps, is a shot of the actress taken during this assignment, where she wears a black, backless gown by Christian Dior, just six weeks before her death. The hauntingly beautiful photograph captures a reflective Monroe glancing back at her audience in what proved to be a final farewell.

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