

Anthony Quinn's art, stills on exhibit at URI Providence campus



An undated photo showing Anthony Quinn working on one of his sculptures is part of ... [+]

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PROVIDENCE, R.I. -- In the 1956 film "Lust for Life," Anthony Quinn played the role of Paul Gauguin opposite Kirk Douglas' Vincent Van Gogh. The result was that rare thing: a serious (at least for the time) movie about art and artists that also did well at the box office.

It's fitting, then, that a film still from "Lust for Life" is one of the highlights of "Anthony Quinn, Transcending Roles," an exhibit at the University of Rhode Island Feinstein Providence Campus that traces Quinn's lifelong passion for both art and acting.

Timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of his birth, the show features a treasure trove of photographs, including film stills and publicity pictures from some of Quinn's best-known movies, among them: "Viva Zapata," a 1952 film that earned Quinn the first of two Academy Awards for best supporting actor; "La Strada," another iconic movie, directed by Federico Fellini; and "Zorba the Greek," the 1964 film that elicited one of Quinn's most indelible performances.

(By the way, the film that earned Quinn his second Academy Award? You guessed it: "Lust for Life.")

Visitors will also find several examples of Quinn's work as an artist, including a series of small Cubist-style paintings and drawings and at least one sculpture — a sinuous 1993 work called "Man and Woman" — that could hold its own against some of the heavyweights of modern art. It's the kind of piece that offers further proof (as if any were needed) of what a remarkable talent Quinn was.

URI's Providence campus is at 80 Washington St. "Anthony Quinn, Transcending Roles" is open through Oct. 2. For more information, go to web.uri.edu/prov/arts/currentgallery/

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