

For my Final Project, I researched “celebrity culture” in America and how our society views the celebrity. I discovered the evolution of the American celebrity and how it has changed through American history. Before the early 20th century, the American “celebrity” was not exactly a celebrity, but a heroic figure for the time period—a war hero, an inventor, or a poet. As mass publication became easily accessible and other forms of media were invented, the modern celebrity came into power.

I chose to illustrate the image of the celebrity through a series of paintings portraying some of the most influential and iconic celebrities of the 20th century—Marilyn Monroe, Marlon Brando, Lucille Ball, Elvis Presley. I chose these celebrities because of how they were portrayed in the media and my own familiarity with their work.

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