

Lady-and-Devil's-Head Art Defended as a Pictorial Pun

By HENRY LEE

A life-sized mannequin with a papier mache devil's head interestingly superimposed on its nude torso was described by an art critic in Lower Manhattan Court yesterday as definitely "esthetic" and something that might also be called "a pictorial pun."

Abraham P. Chess, of the police legal bureau, on the other hand, called the woman-plus-the-devil "lewd, indecent, and immoral, tending to demoralize the morals of youth and others."

The defense critic, Clement Greenberg, of 9 Bank St., was one of half a dozen artists, cartoonists and critics rallying to the defense of 24-year-old Rosetta Goldman, of 15 Charles St., charged with violation of Section 1141-A of the Penal Law in displaying an obscene object.

Greenberg said the peculiar juxtaposition of the devil's eyes in relation to the woman's figure didn't disturb him.

An Artistic Conception.

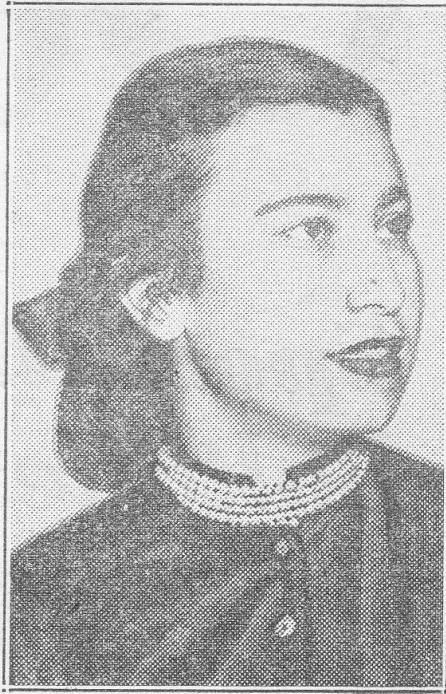
"How about the mouth?" asked Magistrate Hyman Bushel.

"Well, I would say that's a pictorial pun, too,—a pun on the woman's appendix," Greenberg explained.

"That's the first time I ever heard it called an appendix," Bushel remarked.

Walter Pach, of 33 Washington Square, the well known artist-critic, also defended the work as "an artistic conception of the theme, 'Devil in the Flesh.'" Miss Goldman has contended she stuck the figure in her Four Seasons Bookshop at 21 Greenwich Ave. to draw attention to a literary offering, a book called "Devil in the Flesh."

Plainclothes Patrolman Joseph



Rosetta Goldman in Lower Manhattan Court yesterday.

J. Superty, who made the arrest, explained how he felt when he first saw the figure leering at him out of Miss Goldman's show windows. The dummy was simultaneously introduced into evidence, and the 70 spectators rose as one to see what had shocked Superty.

Bushel set a further hearing for 2 P. M. Thursday, when the cops will call rebuttal witnesses.