

Woman & bicycle. 1952-3

by Willem de Kooning



The emphasis & exaggeration of the woman's breasts in this painting eludes that perhaps the artist was mocking women and/or the fashion industry, when in reality he wasn't trying to do either.



Kooning deliberately included his "mistake" in the final piece... the original mouth of the woman became her necklace when Kooning decided it was too far down to be her mouth.

Willem de Kooning's quick & choppy brush strokes make it nearly impossible for viewers to see the bicycle in which the title refers to... However, I believe that in this era, not everything necessarily needed to be clear to everyone. Art is self expression - when other people can relate to it or understand it, it's more of a bonus rather than a necessity.

I think this is a good example of the concept of "Modernism in America" because we as a society are becoming more welcoming of other's "flaws" as Kooning attempts to show.