

= Girl with Ball =

Girl with Ball is a 1961 painting by Roy Lichtenstein . It is an oil on canvas Pop art work that is now in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art , after being owned for several decades by Philip Johnson . It is one of Lichtenstein 's earliest Pop art works and is known for its source , which is a newspaper ad that ran for several decades and which was among Lichtenstein 's earliest works sourced from pop culture .

Girl with Ball was exhibited at Lichtenstein 's first solo exhibition and was displayed in Newsweek 's review of the show . This work significantly alters the original source and is considered exemplary of Lichtenstein 's works that exaggerate the mechanically produced appearance although the result of his painterly work . It is an enduring depiction of the contemporary beauty figure .

= = Background = =

Girl with Ball was inspired by a 1961 advertisement for the Mount Airy Lodge in the Pocono Mountains . The ad , which started running in 1955 , was widely published in the New York metropolitan area and elsewhere , including several prominent newspapers such as The New York Times and the Daily News . The advertisement was still running in newspapers more than twenty years after Lichtenstein produced the work .

According to the Lichtenstein Foundation website , in autumn 1961 , a fellow teacher at Rutgers University named Allan Kaprow made introductions between Lichtenstein and Leo Castelli Gallery director Ivan Karp . Lichtenstein showed Karp several paintings including Girl with Ball , which was the one that intrigued Karp . Karp agreed to represent Lichtenstein weeks later . After showing the painting to Andy Warhol , he sold it to architect Philip Johnson that November . The painting appeared in Newsweek 's 1962 review of Lichtenstein 's Castelli Gallery show . The work appeared in the April 3 , 1963 " Pop ! Goes the Easel " show at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston along with his Brattata (1962) and Head @-@ Red and Yellow (1962) .

= = Description = =

Girl with Ball depicts a woman wearing a bathing suit holding a beach ball with red stripes in the same color as her lips and tongue . Lichtenstein used a painter 's version of comic strip artist techniques to create his own rendition of the subject of a nostalgic photograph , resulting in a simplified work of art with its own appeal . He produced the work using Ben @-@ Day dots of primary colors . The process is described as exaggerating the " limitations of mechanical reproduction " to strip the photograph of its polish in a startling and intense form . In 1961 , this painting was groundbreaking . Facial features such as nose and mouth are depicted using " commercial shorthand " .

His process of reworking original artwork is described as " abstraction by subtraction " , in which all features of the original are reduced to simple graphic elements . Lichtenstein alters the planar position of the subject of the picture to position her " nearer to the picture plane " . He drew the picture more distorted than might be expected of a cartoonist by augmenting and focusing on her two @-@ dimensionality .

= = Reception = =

The image and technique were regarded as unartistic . However , the painting presented an allusion to printing technology , with its Ben @-@ Day dots , and to art history , with its " Art Nouveau forms " . Though " crude and simplistic " the work demonstrates artistic intellect .

Girl with Ball is described by Diane Waldman as " striking " in the simple and bold way it presents a vacation atmosphere . She notes it is " reminiscent of Picasso 's frolicking bather in one of his paintings on the subject , Bather with Beach Ball (fig . 48) , 1932 , " especially in the way Lichtenstein has scaled down the representation and the way he depicts movement .

The newspaper ad source provided Lichtenstein with " one of the most common tropes of the day for the image of a woman . " The updated Betty Grable @-@ type subject , was a fashionable glamor figure that Lichtenstein used for a symbolic value that ranks her with " iconoclastic female figures , including Manet 's Olympia , 1863 , Picasso 's Les Femmes d 'Alger , 1907 and de Kooning 's three series of Women " .