

# 百智圖

韓美林作品集 ①

Mr. Han  
1990

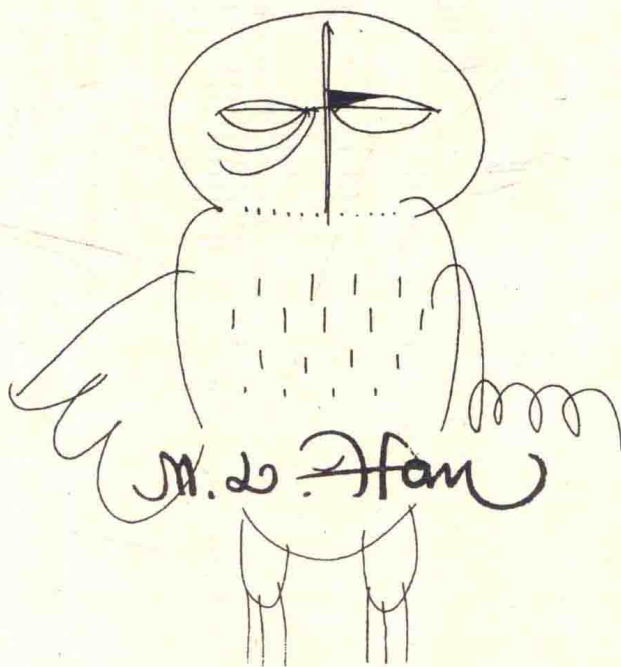
人民美術出版社

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韩美林作品集 ①

Han Meilin 300 Owls Works

Han Meilin Works Album



人民美術出版社

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# 百智圖

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## 爲鴟鵂匡正

人不可貌相。其實任何事物都不可以貌相。

這宇宙，這大自然，這萬萬千千的物種，如果以人的好惡為標準那可就完了。更甚的是為了一個童話或故事中的某一個形象的美丑、好壞，竟然也會千年不得翻身。在中國一個癩蛤蟆、一個貓頭鷹就沒混出個樣來。諸如：“癩蛤蟆想吃天鵝肉”、“癩蛤蟆墊床腿”、“夜貓子進宅”、“武大郎玩夜貓子”……總之它們都屬於丑類。

人們反復無常，喜歡時就夸一頓，不喜歡時就罵一通。本來小狗、小熊、小狐狸是非常可愛的，人們當寵物愛的寶貝蛋一樣，但是翻了臉時什麼“狼心”、“狗肺”、“狐狸精”、“熊包”、“驢臉”、“王八蛋”……全都落了個“可耻下場”。

動物學界、生物學界、生態學家本來就各有己見，藝術形象就更是沒邊沒沿了。它不分什麼科什麼目，藝術家側重外在藝術形象的選擇，不強調有益有害；側重隨心所欲不拘一格，只要藝術上具備着典型性，什麼形象都可以拿來進行創作。老鼠誰不討厭？米老鼠的形象紅了一個地球，熱了一個世紀。中國民間過春節“老鼠娶媳婦”的剪紙也紅遍半個中國。《西游記》中的豬八戒、《聊齋》裏的黃鼠狼，比哪一個“明星”“靚哥”都受歡迎，千兒八百年來人們照舊喜愛它們。

其實，對人造成威脅的不是這些“熊包”、“狗肺”，而是人本身。這大氣污染、環境破壞、水土流失、溫室效應……全是人為所致。捫心自問，誰會罵自己呢？人們在吵得紅頭綠臉、齜牙裂嘴的時候，總是指着對方，惡眼惡鼻子地把祖宗三代都抬出來出氣。何況這些小動物，當出氣筒不是小兒科嗎？

全世界每年遭“熊包”致死的才不過三條人命。老虎、狼不是餓急了絕不侵犯人類。數年前我去非洲住在利比亞中國大使館。從前院到后院不足 200 米，竟有二十多條眼睛蛇和響尾蛇站起來“歡迎”你。但是絕對安全，因為你不碰它。它不會傷害你。

信不信由你：一只小小的蚊子，每 15 秒鐘就要人一條命。這世界也怪，怎么沒有罵蚊子的？而貓頭鷹每年消滅上千只老鼠，也沒見給它報功的！

貓頭鷹的眼是貓眼，要不也不會起這個名字。西方美女就把貓眼當成一個美點，赫本就是貓眼。至于那一睜一閉的功能，其它動物如海豹、海豚都有，這種功能叫做“單半球慢波睡眠”。變色龍的眼睛不但一睜一閉，還可以一前一后，干嘛老擠兌貓頭鷹呢？鷹嘴，中國人叫鷹勾鼻子。相對來講，中國鷹鼻子、大鼻子、酒糟鼻子不多，但是歐人卻不少。你死去活來、撓心燒肺地聆聽第九交響樂、匈牙利狂想曲時，不會想到貝多芬、李斯特他們都是大鷹勾鼻子吧！那愛因斯坦、托爾斯泰大胡子上面都壓着一個大鼻子，可沒人看着不順眼。貓頭鷹叫聲不怎麼樣，半夜吼上一兩聲，準會起雞皮疙瘩。不知大家去了“卡拉 OK”沒有，那裏的“歌聲”狼嚎一樣，你聽了簡直都想上臺殺了他。貓頭鷹叫聲與他比一比，能排上“一級殺手”嗎？

希臘女神雅典娜就是貓頭鷹的化身，是“智慧之神”。澳大利亞、埃及等拿它當“圖騰”崇拜，在這些國家它是老博士，是有智慧、有學問的象征。很多知識界，諸如：書店、圖書館、雜誌，都用它作標志。

1980 年我去美國舉辦畫展，聖地亞哥的市長授我金鑰匙時，會場后牆上豎着美國星條旗，講臺上是一只非常漂亮的大貓頭鷹，旁邊一個碧眼金發的小姐專門照顧它。這種頒獎形式，我當時真感到“別是一番滋味”在心頭。

貓頭鷹為了這不怎麼樣的一聲吼，落了個災難、恐怖、死亡、黑暗、幽靈、不吉利的惡名。其實人也如此，喜歡說的比唱的好的人，總比喜歡實話實說的人多，所以貓頭鷹告知人類遇事有的得一眼睜一眼閉着。

我的畫中貓頭鷹占不少比例。十幾年前我去黃山時人家送了我一只貓頭鷹。沒有巴掌大，吃肉比我饞，一天到晚不離我像個孩子。它那一睜一閉的陰陽眼像個小大人，老謀深算的樣子很可笑、更可愛。給它照了不少照片，沒有不說好玩的。平時愛開玩笑的我，把最好的一張夾在工作證裏代替我的像片，朋友們見到都大笑不止。一次去郵局取款，嚴肅的服務員說：“這是你的工作證嗎？”我說：“是，”他把工作證一扔：“你看！”我傻了眼。

貓頭鷹長得很美，有人養着當寵物也不是這個世紀的事了。今年我在深圳半夜起來為夜貓子不服氣，下床提筆，用了兩天時間畫了三百多幅“討人嫌”。還想畫下去，但身體跟我鬧別扭，住了半個月的醫院，不然還跟它沒完沒了。

我滿肚子裝着上千只貓頭鷹，待我恢復了元氣，有朝一日再掏出來見公婆吧！





# HanMeilin's Work Album(一)

## In Defense of the Owl

You cannot tell a man's value only by his appearance.

The universe, the nature and species will all have a bad fortune if they are judged by human's values. Even an image in a fairy tale could decide an animal's reputation for over one thousand years. For example, in china, the toad and owl do not establish themselves as kind species, sayings such as! a toad aspiring to catch a swan; a toad under a harrow; an owl breaking into a house; a dwarf playing with an owl: all classify the species under ugly types.

Man are capricious. They endear small dogs, bears and foxes. They are lovely animals, but when man are unhappy they will turn to use phrases such as wolfish cruelty, doggish attitude, foxy lady, bearish man, horseface and son of a bitch ... the animals all have the dirty end of the stick.

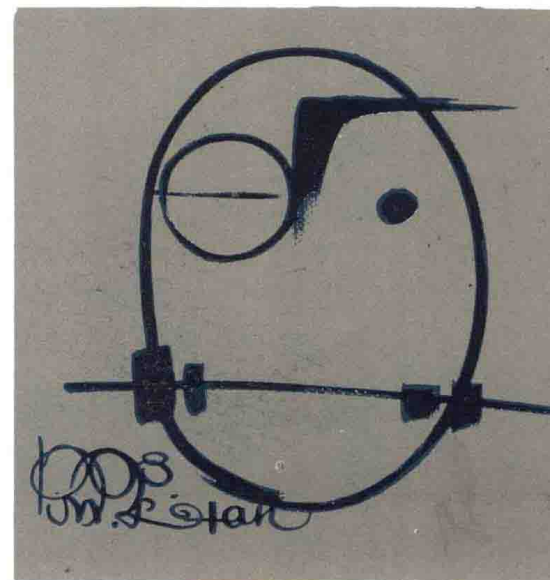
Zoologists, biologists and ecologists have their own ideas, in which the art is put far aside. Artists, on the contrary, lay their emphasis on the external image of an animal, caring little about whether it is beneficial or harmful to man, and they like make their choices without limitation. When an animal can offer some typical characteristics, it can be used as a model for artists to imitate. Is there anybody who does not abhor mice? But the image of Mickey Mouse is popular over the world for a century. The pig in A Journey to the West and the weasel in The Chat Room are more favorite figures than any stars and handsome boys, and have been popular for centuries.

What composes a threat to human beings are not bears and dogs, but humans themselves. Air pollution, water and soil erosion, greenhouse effect ... , all of them are a produce of man. But ask our conscience, who will blame himself for this? When people get angry, they often try to scold their foes along with their ancestors, let alone helpless pets.

Several years ago when I visited Chinese embassy in Liberia, I found more than 20 cobras and rattlers standing on end to welcome me in the embassy's courtyard less than 200 meters in width. You are absolutely risk-free. They will not bite you until you have provoked them.

Believe it or not, the tiny mosquito takes away a man's life every 15 seconds. Isn't it strange that nobody in the world try to blame the mosquito? And an owl will annihilate 1000-plus rats in a year, and nobody confers it a medal.

The eyes of an owl are cat's eyes, and this is why it gets such a name of cat-eyed owl in Chinese. Beauties in the West treat cat's eyes as something pretty. The owl's ability to keep one eye open and the other close is a function of mono-semi-globular slow-wave sleep. Such an ability is also obtained by other animals such as seal and dolphin. Chameleons can not only keep one eye open and the other close, but also move one eye forward and the other backward at the same time. Why always blame the owl?



Comparatively speaking, there are not so many aquiline and big noses and acen rosacea among Chincse as among Europeans. You will not come to think about the aquiline noses of Beethoven and Liszt when you are listening Symphony No. 9 and Hungarian Rhapsody devotedly. Above the mustaches of A. Eistein and Tolstoy, there are aslo big aquiline noses, but nobody has ever expressed their dislike for them. The shriek of owls are not so nice and such a shrick at midnight will give you gooseskin. I don't know whether you have been in a Karaoke club, in which the singing is such an awful wolfcall that you can t help going up to break the singer s neck. Compared with such a singer, how can an owl be listed as a first-degree murderer?

Athcna, the goddess of Ancient Greek, is an incarnation of an owl, and is a Goddess of wisdom, adored as a totem in Australia and Egypt. In these countries, it is thought to be a learned scholar full of intelligence and knowledge. In: the literati, the owl is an emblem in some bookstores, libraries and magazines.

In 1980 when I went to the United States to give an art exhibition, the mayor of San Diego conferred me a golden key. In the conference room, there are a U.S. national flag on the wall and a very handsome owl on the dais. A blonde young lady was attending it by its side. This way of conferring a medal has given me a totally different feeling.

The owl has earned a bad reputation as an messenger of disaster, horror, death, darkness, ghost and evil omen. In fact, humans prefer toadeating and apple-polishers to those who tell the truth: a great hobby of human beings. So the owl tell us to keep one eye close when we encounter something unpleasant.

Owls take a large proportion in the objects of my paintings. An owl, which was smaller than my palm and more avaricious than I for meat, was given to me as a gift when I visited the Yellow Mountain a dozen years ago. It could not tolerate being separated from me all day long, just like a baby, but its way of keeping one eye open and one eye close made it look like a thoughtful adult. This ability made it even more laughable and lovely. I took many photos for it and everybody who saw the photos would say it was not a great fun. I like to make jokes, so I insert one of the best into my I.D. card to replace mine. Friends all burst into laughter when they saw it. Once I went to a post-office to get my remittance, the postman there, grave as an owl, asked, "Is it yours?" "Sure," I replied. He threw back the card to me and said, "Look at it yourself." I was dumbfounded.

The owl is really goodlooking, and it has been a pet for more than one century. One day this years, I got up at midnight, feeling sorry for the owl, started to spent two days drawing more than 300 pictures of this abhorred animal and wanted to continue to paint, while was hospitalized for half a month. I would not stop painting it otherwise.

It is full of owls images in my mind, and when I recover from the present disease, I will present them to the public.

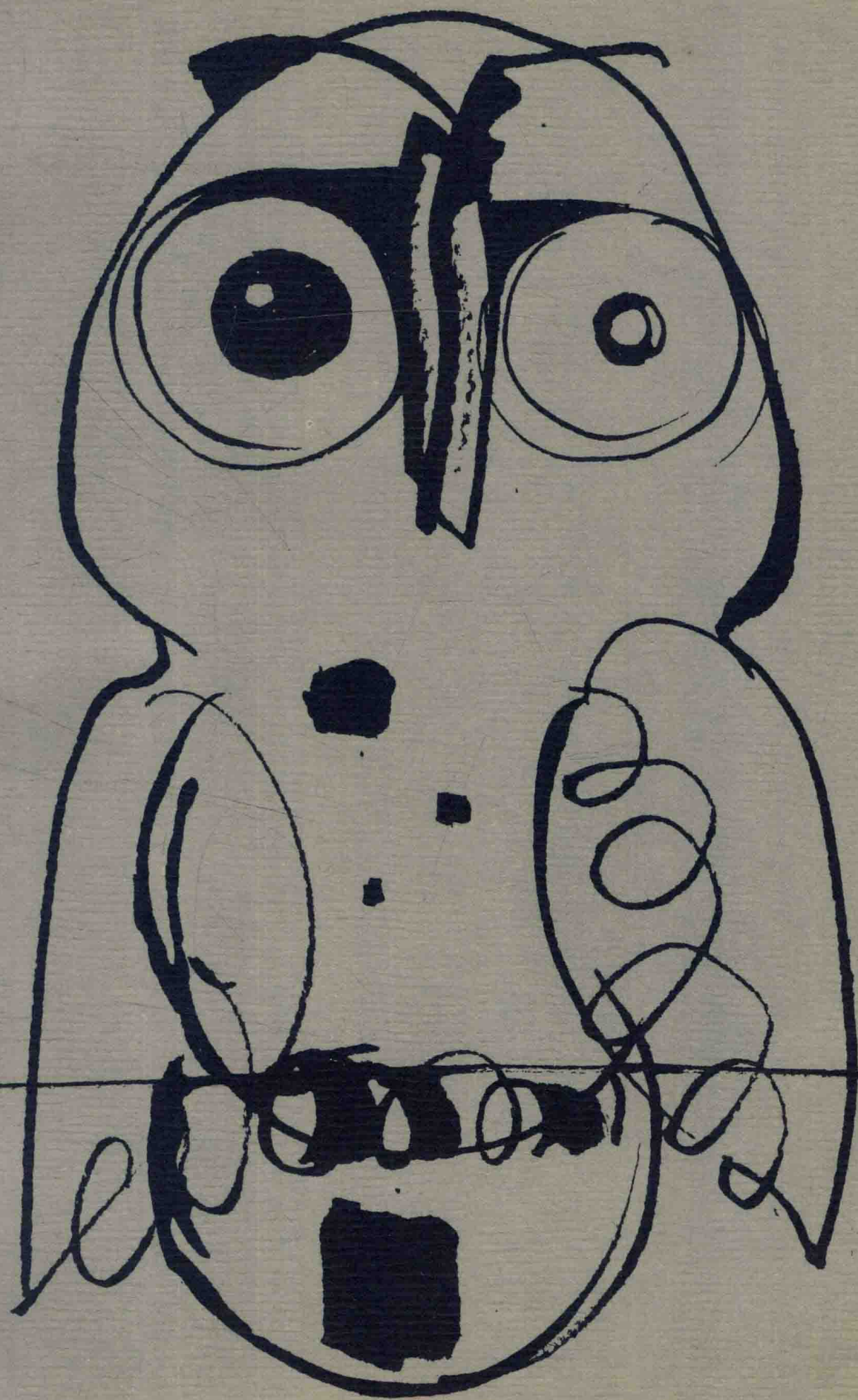


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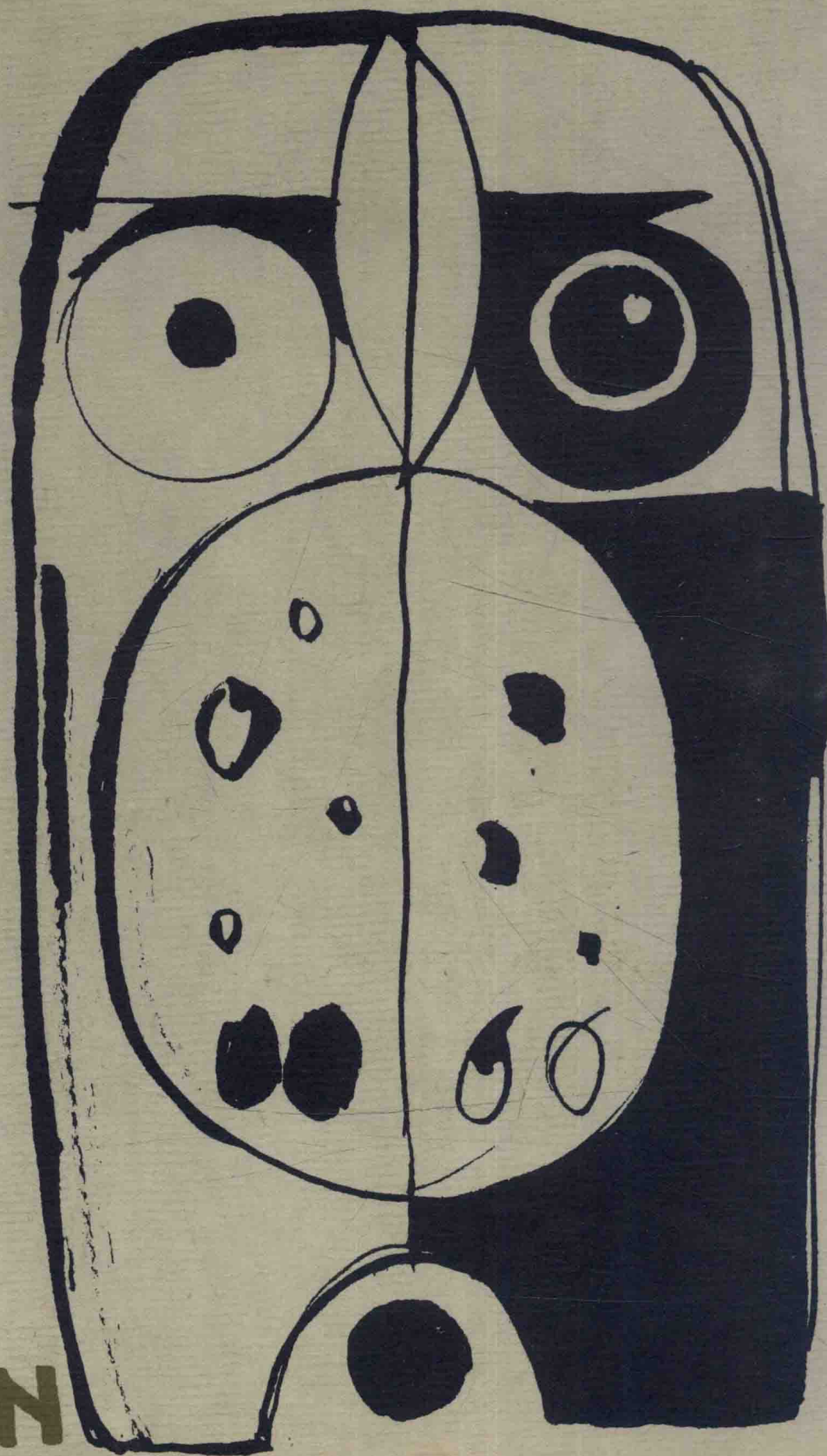
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