

New Mexico Quarterly

Volume 1 | Issue 3

Article 7

1931

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Recommended Citation

Mozley, Joseph Thornton. "On Gazing at a Reproduction of Venus de Milo." *New Mexico Quarterly* 1, 3 (1931).
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol1/iss3/7>

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On Gazing at a Reproduction of Venus de Milo

(Free Verse)

By JOSEPH THORNTON MOZLEY

You without arms,
What tales your hands could tell.
Were they lifted up in praise,
Or did they blessings give?
Were those stone-cast hands
Tightly gripped with intense desire,
Or were they benevolently opened wide?
A hand and arm outstretched
Can either beckon or stay;
Can show contempt or fear.
Hands like eyes express the heart
When unrestrained they act;
But hands like eyes can fool
The wisest of believing men,
When vampires choose them
For their deceiving tools.