

Analyzing the Roles and Representation of Women in *The City*

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Lewis Mumford, a 20th century urban visionary, stood out from the public of his time by refusing to blindly praise rapid technological innovation and urbanization. Rather, he professed that a small, democratic, and green community in the form of a “greenbelt town” would be the ultimate living space for humankind to avoid the foreseeable downfalls of urban growth and unstoppable technological progress. Mumford showcased this vision in *The City* (1939) to millions at the New York World’s Fair. We must be critical as to how truly “democratic” and inclusive these communities were portrayed as on screen, as to see if this film subtly perpetrated social inequalities to a wide audience, despite Mumford’s claims to having conceived of a nearly utopian democratic community. Thus, the aim of my research is to examine specifically the roles and representation of women in Lewis Mumford’s vision in *The City*.



Frame #184 in *The City*, depicting women working in the public sphere of Manhattan.
(*The City* (1939) on a 2009 DVD produced by Naxos Records (Poing, Germany; www.naxos.com))