

Carly Peck

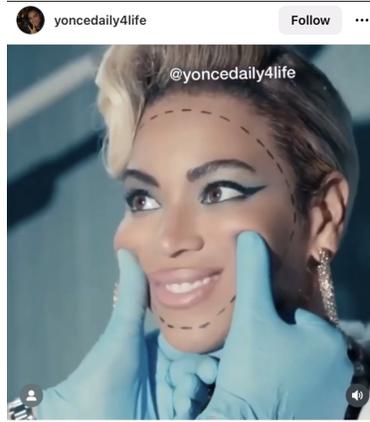
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English and Comparative Literature - Film Studies

Senior

### **American Beauty**

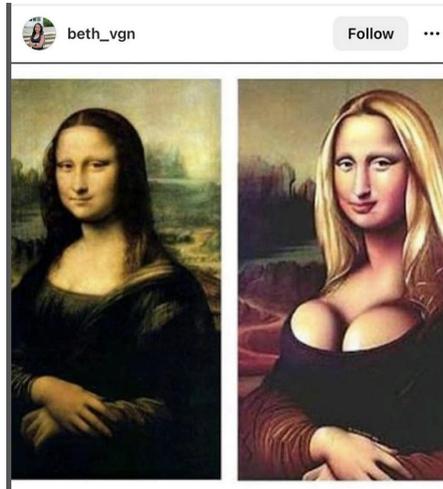
I created my exhibition, “American Beauty”, to bring attention to the pressures that society puts on women to look a certain way. Though this is a topic I am sure most people are familiar with, this is still an issue that has spanned across cultures and time periods. Additionally, all of my posts were found on Instagram because to me Instagram represents a medium that allows people to both promote and deviate from the status quo. In my exhibition I was intentional with the order in which I posted. The exhibition begins with a brief look into the song “Pretty Hurts” by Beyonce to set the tone. This post is followed by photographs of a breast augmentation, a 21st century Mona Lisa, and a skin bleaching before and after photo. Each of those posts emphasize extreme physical changes women choose to go through to align with our current beauty standards. The following post is a video displaying and explaining a little about the historical paper bag test, while the next post is a portrait of a light-skin woman with a paper bag material draped around her. The final post is of a woman who proudly reveals her unshaved underarms, choosing to defy the beauty standard that says women must be absolutely hairless.



A brief behind the scenes look at one of Beyonce’s most iconic music videos, “Pretty Hurts”, where she explores the pressures of our society’s beauty standards.



A photo of a woman’s chest before and after breast implants. The woman sought breast implants post-breastfeeding.



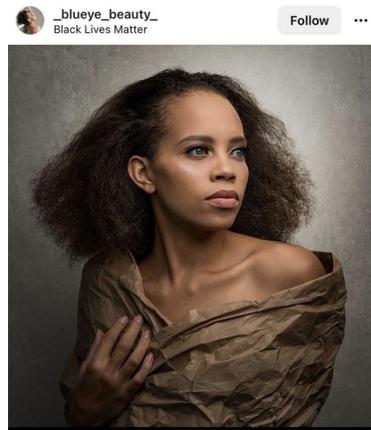
A side-by-side comparison of the original Mona Lisa and a reimagined Mona Lisa that aligns better with today's beauty standards.



A picture posted by a skin lightening Instagram account showcasing a woman's before and after photos.



A video showcasing a display of the historical paper bag test.



A woman poses while wrapped in a paper bag material as if it were her skin.



A woman proudly shows off her unshaved underarms.