

4/18/2012

This week, we discussed the perception of beauty in society. I really enjoyed the readings on this topic especially the article about retouching pictures and the perception of beauty among different races. For the retouching discussion, it was interesting that most of the class was fine with having pictures retouched. I agreed with the majority because I feel as though there are many ways to change a person's appearance, whether it be permanent or temporary. If a person can get botox or a facelift, isn't that pretty much the same as photoshop-ing a picture? At the end of the day, both practices are altering the appearance of a person. I do agree that some kind of disclaimer should be added to images that are excessively photoshop-ed but logically, I do not think it would be possible to enforce a code or if a disclaimer would be effective. Some pictures are just altered to make the colors in a person's clothing pop while others are altered to make a person look slimmer. How can you differentiate between the two when designing a disclaimer code that the public would actually take the time to notice? I think that consumers just have to realize that companies manipulate perceptions all the time and you have to consider that when you set a goal for yourself to attain the body of the body builder on the front of Muscle & Fitness, for example. People have to educate themselves and be realistic to realize that the M&F body builder probably took a ton of diuretics to rid his body of all water weight to look so defined; without common sense and realistic goals, society is screwed.

The discussion on the perception of beauty among Black, White, and Latino women was also interesting. I was shocked to read that Black and Latino women have more confidence in their appearance than White women. It was shocking because I feel as though Black and Latino women frequently try to attain that perfect image that is defined by white society. The part of the discussion on beauty within the black community was enlightening for the fact that the major issue of light-skinned black women being seen as more beautiful than dark-skinned black women was brought to the surface. For many black men, they will most likely consider a light-skinned black woman with green eyes and long hair to be more beautiful than a dark-skinned woman with short hair. I liked the quote that someone in class said: that each race desires features that are not common to their race. I feel like this quote is 100% accurate and a sad reflection of our society in not embracing our true beauty.

MIT OpenCourseWare  
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

Fİ ÈJFI Á[ } ç^!•æā }•Ä[ ~ Áæ) GP æ^Á } Áæ ] ~•KÜæ^ÉÖ@ æä ÉÖ^} á^!Áæ) áÁ^} cã  
Spring 20FG

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.