

Lauren Cipicchio

## Final Project

Our first assignment was to find pictures that we liked and disliked. I brought in one of Cindy Sherman's from her Untitled collection. In this set of photographs, Cindy Sherman took photographs of herself mimicking famous foreign movies. Because the pictures are not movie-specific, they are able to move beyond depicting a specific film to portray an overall idea of how people imagine the female image. This general idea of having a “nonspecific” person allows the viewer to insert his/her own stereotypes into the picture. Even though Cindy Sherman has claimed many times that her work is not explicitly feminist, she was quoted in *Cindy Sherman Retrospective* as saying that as she looks back on her work, she notices the male gaze that comes from them.

I wanted to continue on this line of thinking, I took pictures of recreated scenes of fairy tales. According to Cindy Sherman, fairy tales are a “key agent of socialization..[that] enables the child to discover his or her place in the world and to test hypotheses about the world. The sexist slant of most of her traditional tales can be summed up with the cliché of a girl waiting for her prince.” I used both the ideas of a nonspecific person and a male gaze to show the “slant” of tradition tales.

The pictures I took were all of women. I hoped to be able to show the way women are seen in classic fairy tales. To me there will be two kinds of women, there is the princess, damsel in distress and the wicked women. The typical women in a fairy tale stereotype is that beautiful women only dream of their prince, their life is not complete without him. It is always a story of how the princess is saved by this prince from a terrible life she used to live. This stereotype tells little girls that to have a wonderful life they must be beautiful and have a prince charming.

My final picture ended up being one of the princess. It shows the dream of a little girl wanting to be a princess, the girl is in a beautiful dress but staring off dreamily into a mirror. The mirror shines back with her reflection by a castle. The scene of the castle starts to engulf the rest of the room, by having the scene leak out of the mirror and onto the walls and floor of the bathroom.

I took my final picture both in digital and film. I used photo shop to create the castle image into the mirror and layered it to make it seem to flow out of the mirror. After I created the flow, I made the flowers and the castle stand out by changing the opacity. I had to increase the contrast to allow for my picture to have a pure white and black. I printed the negative inversely in black and white and did a contact print. All of the pictures were printed on fiber. I picked fiber because from the pictures I have seen it looks to have the more storybook feel and the blacks are more defined. I mad the developer from a pre-measured mix.

The picture was printed to look as if it was a painting, this was done all done in the printing process. The process involved developing it in two times. Once to get the image, the second to be able to get the right texture. The texture came from using the printed negative on white paper instead of a transparency. The picture was brought together by the variety of techniques we learned throughout the semester.