

# The Beautiful Feminist Photo Annotations



By Tali Jagielski

I was born on Wurundjeri Country.

I was raised on Wurundjeri Country.

I acknowledge the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of this land and give thanks to the past, present and future of Wurundjeri culture.

I am proud to share my work on Wurundjeri Country.

Thankyou.

## Image 1 - Self Portrait



This image displays the traditional and idealistic standards of beauty in society. A stereotypical version of beauty is portrayed with the intense makeup and slick hairstyle whilst the stark white background adds to the magazine aesthetic that is widely known to hold the current perceptions of beauty. Ultimately, this image creates a social commentary on the pressure surrounding the topic of beauty.

## Image 2 - The Stereotypical Feminists



This photo demonstrates the stereotypical feminist: angry, determined and blameful. The models' stern body language and eye contact suggest that feminists are seen to have toxic, negative views towards men. There is a comparative nature between the girls as they all look toward one another, adding to the jealousy females are taught to feel as society trains women to compete and judge one another. Although society perceives anger and hatred, it is ultimately the courage and emotiveness that has brought about change. This image demonstrates the strength that has driven this feminist movement and is meant to bring in a truth about the symbol of a feminist; an age of love and empowerment toward all peoples.

Image 3 - Milk Bath



This image suggests that girls and women deal with oversexualisation in media, art and society in general. The bare legs are battered and bruised to show that this process negatively effects most girls' experience of being a female today. The milk bath is a symbol of purity and innocence; contradicting a major loss of both elements in a girl's life as they are exposed to the 'real world' of sexualisation and sexism. There is a culture of sexual abuse and violence against women that needs to be addressed all over the world.

## Image 4 - Mirrors



This photo reflects (pun intended) the pressure that people feel to look and act a certain way. The mirror is a symbol of expectation and suggests that we are all reflecting society's ideals; to be slender yet curvy, to wear makeup but look natural, no body hair and no stretch marks but no plastic surgery...to always look happy. Having the model's face covered hints at the commonality of objectification in the beauty industry. This lack of individuality sets up an underlying tone of fear and suggests that the pressure may come from the individual.



## Image 5 - Expectation



This image suggests that people are beginning to challenge the systems in the world. The smudged makeup symbolises change and the blurring of expectation. The confrontational eye contact breaks the fourth wall in order to bring the viewer into the image and make the issue seem relevant and personal.

## Image 6 - Change



This photo juxtapositions traditionalism and rebellion, seen in the long gowns and grand jumps, respectively. Additionally, femininity is embraced through the inclusion of the long dresses. The movement suggests that a leap of faith is needed to move forward and create positive change. The long and winding road is used as a symbol of the journey to and from this point of realisation. The topic of age has been introduced by using models from older generations in order to show that feminism is inclusive.



## Image 7 - Naturalism



This image depicts an acceptance and celebration of naturalism. It proves that 'flaws' can be beautiful and that there is a joy that comes from the ability to respect, accept and love yourself. The difference in skin tone and race suggests that recognising and honouring different attributes, identities and experiences of women is the best way forward into a world of inclusivity. The realism and positivity provide a sense of hope.

## Image 8 - Freedom



This photo explores the freedom that is brought forth as we acknowledge that all genders are equal, demonstrated by the models supporting each other. As gender equity becomes present and normalised, so does social justice, anti-racism, anti-sexism and intersectionality. The ocean symbolises a natural beauty that is enforced by the dancers. The models add a sense of balance as their masculine and feminine energies are accepted and celebrated.

## Image 9 - Self Portrait



This image contrasts to the first self-portrait and again, it is a social commentary to show that people are capable of change. Being healthy in body, mind and soul is key in the acceptance of yourself and others. To be individual and look at someone else without judgement or jealousy is to be aware that we are all perfectly imperfect. Being a product of society's ideals will prevent this future that can only be made possible by a collection of empowered individuals who learn to work together.

I would like to thank every person involved in the  
creation of this project.

I feel so blessed to have such generous people  
around me and to be given the space and support  
to undertake a yearlong project on a topic that I  
love.

I am forever grateful.

- T.S.J.