**BODY PROJECT PROPOSAL SAMPLES**

Our body project is going to be a collage representing the “bees scene” from Fannie Flagg’s *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe*. It will be a twofold presentation; the first part will be a visual representation of the scene associated with the Biblical Myth of the Original Sin, whereas the second part will be a depiction of the homosexual implications triggered by the same scene based on the specific intimate relationship between Idgie and Ruth. Our aim is to embrace the homosexual element which does not become explicit in this particular encounter and to rewrite the Original Sin in lesbian terms.

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Inspired by Marge Piercy’s poem “Barbie Doll” and Sylvia Plath’s poem “The Applicant” we decided to touch upon the issue of the use, objectification and mass production of the female body by advertising and mass media. Piercy’s poem deals with the issue of women being oppressed towards feeling uncomfortable and ashamed of their bodies and sexuality in a visual environment that demands that only a perfectly-shaped, hairless, thin female body is desirable and attractive, while Plath’s poem explores how culture and society ruthlessly impel a “living doll” image and role for women and men alike.

Our body project will constitute of a piece of clothing, and more specifically a dress made out of paper using the technique of collage with different photographs of the female body in advertisements in newspapers and magazines. The dress represents something artificial and superficial that society uses to “dress up” the human body and most of the times misrepresent it. The use of paper is also significant, since it bears connotations of something recyclable that you can reuse and reproduce just like the image of the female body. Our goal is to visually represent how society, through the power of the image, weaves around the female body a dress of oppression and objectification; and also show how marketing politics, as a means to make profit, promote an image which, in order for women to acquire, they are forced to pay more and more money for various products, from clothing and cosmetics to any kind of dietary item.

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Our project will consist of a creative performance on video regarding the labeling that has been imposed on the female body in advertising published in the U.S. during the decades of the '40s, '50s and '60s. In particular, we will examine stereotypical images of “proper” femininity in the aforementioned eras, as they appear in the context of print advertisement. Our project will focus on commercial images in relation to the representation of the female body figure, physical and mental capacities perceived as typically “feminine,” as well as the female face of beauty as constructed and promoted by cosmetics industries. Our critical commentary will consist of a parody performance of those images in order to highlight the difference between the constructed and corporeal reality of women.

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# The Changing Face of America

# Our idea is to produce a video titled “The Changing Face of America.” As evident in the title, the body part we will be focusing on is the face. We have divided the history of America into the following five periods: a. Early colonial era b. Revolution/Building America c. fin de siècle, W.W.I and W.W.II, d. mid and late 20th century (1950-1980), e. today. Each team member will work on one of these periods. We will find pictures/portraits of typical Americans of each era, for example Native Americans, Puritans, revolutionary figures, immigrants, workers, gangsters, middle class families, hippies, activists, veterans, etc. The visual element will be particularly engaging as the video will attempt to compile a history of America through portraits. As these portraits slide by, excerpts from the works of American literary figures will appear to tell their own stories on the face(s) of the nation. If possible, we will also include songs and other audio material that has something to say about the human face, for example, hymns, gospel and blues, immigrants’ or workers’ songs, recordings of poems or excerpts from audio books. In short, our intention is to put together a video that will engage the viewer visually, mentally and acoustically, and also have a social/political aspect to it.

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Our project will be a collage (or perhaps a short video, depending on our resources) commenting on Tom Robbins’ *Still Life with Woodpecker*, and specifically on Leigh-Cheri’s reluctance to use commercial contraceptives. She feels that contraceptives do not grand the independence and sexual freedom they are promising, but that they encage her in a new way: instead of a reproductive machine, she becomes another cog in the capitalist machine of the male-dominated society. The fact that sex is changing into something more technological and industrial and less emotional and physical with each passing day, terrorizes her; and that is what we will try to capture in our project.