

# **A LEVEL ART AND DESIGN PHOTOGRAPHY**

## **UNIT 2 PERSONAL INVESTIGATION**

**AO1 = 31 / 40**

**AO2 = 32 / 40**

**AO3 = 30 / 40**

**AO4 = 31 / 40**

**TOTAL = 124 / 160**

# LEARNER STATEMENT

## COMPLETION OF THIS FORM IS COMPULSORY

Complete and submit the learner statement with your work as it will be referred to when it is assessed.

To place your submission in a suitable context, use the template below:

Explain the **MAIN IDEA(S)** from which you developed your responses

My theme is natural beauty. I am focusing on women as I feel in society they are expected to work as good as. As I take this political and cultural approach on natural beauty, I will explore aspects of identity and the feminist Avant-guard. I believe natural beauty comes with liberation and self-acceptance and self-love. I find the people who are comfortable in their skin the most beautiful people.

Outline your initial **PLAN(S)** in the development of your work

In my photography I look to capture females in their natural settings or a natural setting. No make-up no setting with no make-up, no weaves, hair extension... natural. Race plays a big part in self-acceptance and natural beauty for a long time black people were not seen a holding a high standard of beauty. Black peoples hair was make fun of and so was their bold features as a result of this disapproval black people found it hard to accept themselves. They would perm their hair, do treatment to lighten their skin. There it was important to me that I portray black women in a different light. My first shoot focused on hair, then skin then nature. Towards the end I combine nature and humanity together as I felt that we have be separated from our natural habitat which causes us to conform.

Describe the **CONTEXT** (influences, purposes and meanings) of your work

People which have influenced my work are Joey Rosado, Lorna Simpson, Benjamin Lennox, Nekeya Brown. All the artists and photographers I used helped strengthen my understanding of natural beauty. Each has different ideas of natural beauty, as well as a different way of approaching it. Before researching I claimed natural beauty is honest, contentment, strong, accepting, confident and the work of the photographer have all of these things in common if not all most.

**REFLECT** on your work critically as it progresses and on its completion

Overall my project was very successful I really enjoyed working on the project, my photographer progressed the more I went on. My outcome for this project was really successful; it was a female model in a bath of water, surrounded by flowers. Which reflect the idea of bring natural and human beings together as they belong. The colour of the models skin against the flowers complimented each other very well.

### How do the photographers' work help your understanding of natural beauty?

In this essay, I will be evaluating how Joey Rosado, Nakeya Brown, Benjamin Lennox and Lorna Simpson view natural beauty, to greater my understanding, by reflecting on what elements of nature they use to enforce and enhance natural beauty.

Joey Rosado's work builds up women in a way never seen before. His work simply exemplifies and honours natural beauty in women. I like how the use of colour is used to contour the women's natural curves her cheek bones, her smile, her breast and her collar bone. Some people may say Joey Rosado's photography is not seen as natural beauty as the model is wearing a lot of make-up and has been airbrushed. However, I believe this was done to emphasise certain features that already stand out, the idea of using make up to enhance what you have and not hide it is beautiful. As very often black women



particularly are judge harshly for their bold features like big lips, big nose and high cheekbones the list could go on. As the world of implants and plastic surgery grows it is attractive how this photo highlights scars of bravery and pain. The women in the photo has undergone a mastectomy exposing that she is or was victim of breast cancer; as her head is held high in this imagine we see a woman of strength and integrity and that is what natural beauty is. I think it's truly amazing that slowly black women are not ashamed to be true to them-selves, wearing their natural hair, dressing in clothes from their home countries as well as in society black women are being respected for what they are and what they stand for.

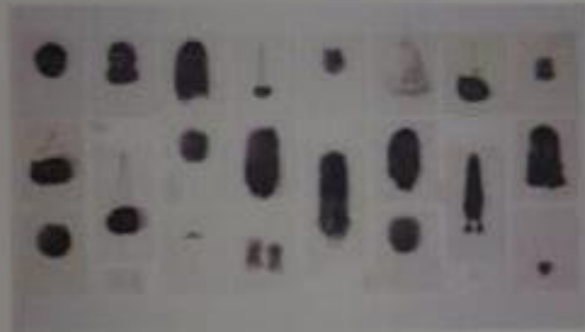


Nakeya Brown's photography reveals to us that natural beauty does not come from hair appliances nor products but from what you have been given, your natural hair. I admire how her work challenges the ideas of black women conforming in society. I believe the plants in these shots represent people, women in their natural form and then next to it stands the transformation process this reflects on actual life as it comments on the fact that we are beautiful creatures of the earth and we change ourselves to fit in. Nakeya Browns' photography helps me to understand that natural beauty is something that is deeper than appearance, as plants have roots so do people and our outside is just a reflection of the interior. her photography also explains to me that there is excellence in liberation this is shown through the two posters presented on the wall. One of the women is Denise Williams this was the photo used on her album cover "This is Niecy" and the other women is Melba Moore this too is an album cover "Melba" both of which did very well in the years 1976-1978. I believe these were used in the photo as both women used music as an expression of themselves and there were lots of positive responses from it. The posters are used as a symbol of self-acceptance, accepting yourself and letting the world accept that also not letting your appearance define you as a person, as individuals we are much greater than hair and aesthetics.



Benjamin Lennox work is truly inspiring he takes as he reflects on the industries and its expectations of how women she looks; by using a supermodel for a natural beauty shoot. His work reveals Anya Lyagoshina natural beauty when he shows us her imperfections. Rather than crucifying her for them he highlights them with soft shadows and light. Her eyebrows are not done neither are her nails and her hair is

messy, you can still see the creases in her neck they haven't been air brushed out to deceive the audience; by having them under the illusion that she is perfect. This relates to my theme as I see 'Natural Beauty' as truthful, honest, confident, authentic. Her as eyes are fully open and strong as she looks up as if she's telling us she is aware of whom she is and she accepts it. Gold holds high value and power as gold pours from the models mouth we begin to think about her being true to herself and her voice, her voice has value.

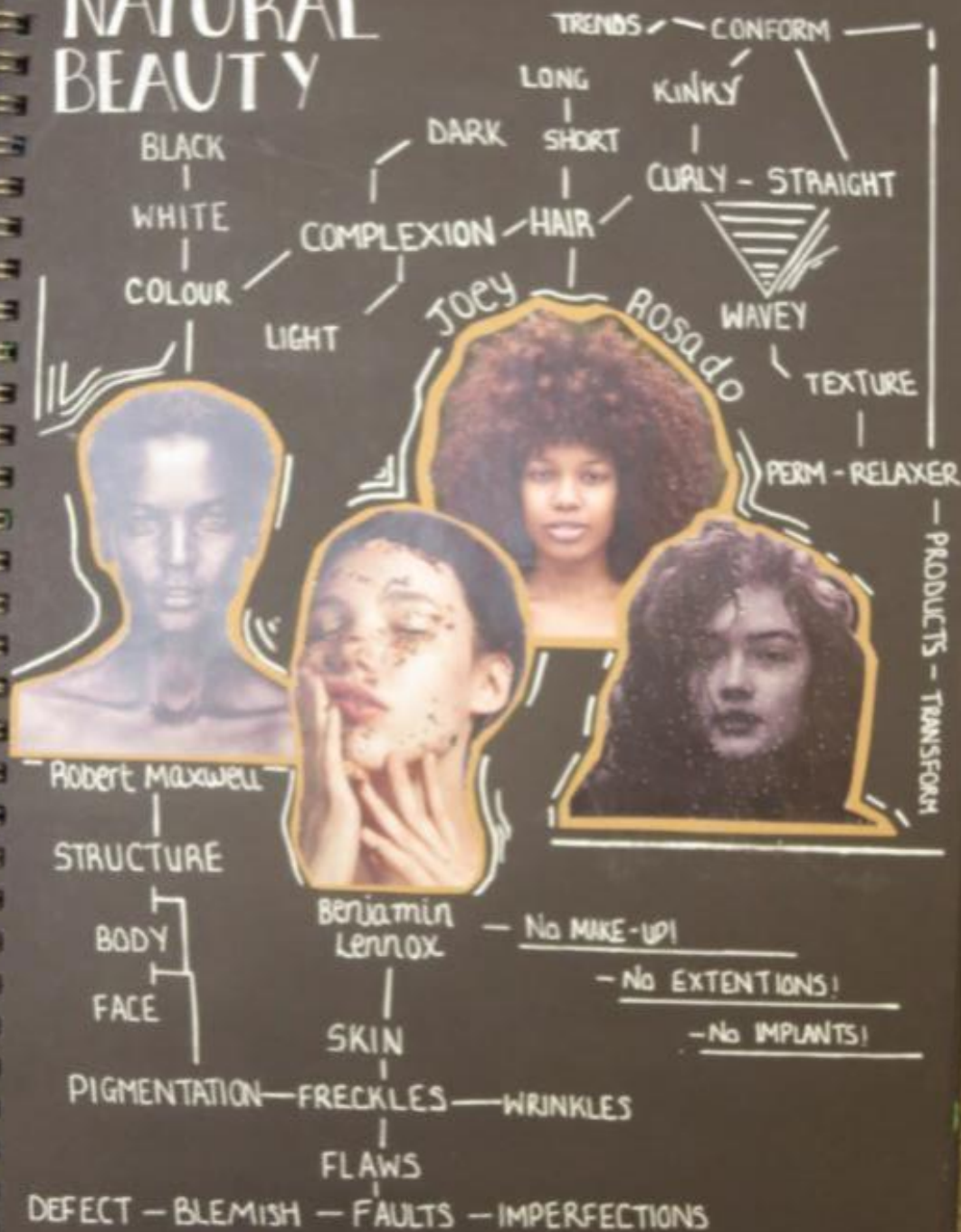


I came across Lorna Simpson at the Tate her work was thought provoking and made me think of childhood. How my hair was a major part of my identity. Growing up I wore a lot of weaves to have long hair like my white friends or mixed friends because I didn't feel like my natural hair was beautiful. In this piece, you can see many different types of wigs. The wigs have no body but the way Simpson has placed the wigs it feels like there is a sense of movement as if

there someone behind it. I think Simpson is commenting on the fact that some women hide themselves behind wigs, sometimes because of the natural changes happening to them such as losing hair, cancer or simple because we can't expect what we've been born with as beautiful. Therefore, we change ourselves to look like someone or something in which we consider to be this idea of beautiful. I believe the wigs hold an identity themselves and by wearing them they take over yours. Wigs can be made of real hair from someone else or it can be synthetic. Lorna Simpson helps me understand that we should embrace the changes and ourselves rather than empowering wigs and allowing them to control our identity when it is not real.

In conclusion, the photographers which I have chosen have greatened my knowledge of what natural beauty is by confronting societies expectations and being honest to yourself. The works have also inspired my work in terms of colour, lights, subject matter and material.

# NATURAL BEAUTY



# BENJAMIN LENNOX

"ALL THAT GLITTERS"

I like the in the series of images you see the thing gold, which is smooth and almost perfect against the model's skin which has freckles and red markings. Although contrasting the two complement each other well.

- The models direct gaze reveals themes of honesty to the audience as she is not hiding away the is aware of herself
- Themes of liberation is explored in this piece. Talks about how ones identity gold is seen as highly valuable is as valuable as others.
- The liquid gold in the models mouth could represent the value of ones words as gold is seen as highly valuable.



- Soft lighting little make-up if any at all.
- The gold could be used to emphasise the beauty of her natural skin
- Gold leaf is the purest form of gold. However it does come from gold, which is seen as precious and beautiful.

My theme is natural beauty. I am fixating on women as I feel they are so good as to work as MOOD BOAR

As I take this political and cultural beauty, I will explore aspects of identity and self-love. I believe natural beauty comes with the people who and is true to

approach on natural and the feminist avant-gard. liberation and self-acceptance are comfortable in their skin their identity the most beautiful people.

in my photography I look to capture females their natural settings or a natural setting with no make-up women, hair etc. Natural

Race plays a big part in self-acceptance for a long time black people's hair was made features as a result of this hard to accept themselves could be straight like white beauty is important.

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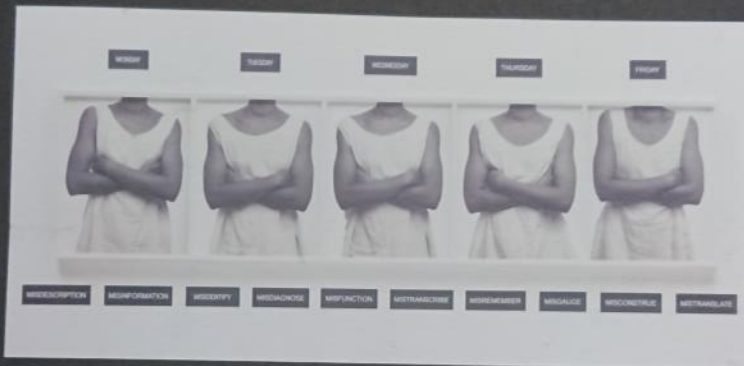
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# JOEY ROSADO



# TATE VISIT LORINA SIMPSON

I came across Lorina Simpson's work at the 'Tate'. I found her work very powerful and organic. Despite the fact that what you can see is very limited; a lot definitely means a lot in Lorina Simpson's work.



Five Day Forecast, 1991, Lorina Simpson

At first glance I thought the photos were mug shots due to the style of them. They look organised. As I looked further at the series of images I see a woman figure in a loose shift dress, standing against a white wall with her arms crossed. Her arms being crossed comes across as child like and defiant. The soft lighting reveals honesty though this juxtaposed the miscommunication in identity.

Above the images you can see 5 days of the week. The mix of the women communicated to the audience that this lady is the same woman 5 days a week. Underneath the images there are 10 words which are 'misdescriber', 'misinformation', 'misdept', 'misadvise', 'misfunction', 'mismanage', 'mismember', 'misgall', 'miscontrive' and 'mistranslate'.

Due to these words' negative connotation it could imply repeated communication failure, within personal professional and racial relationships.

As well as the word 'mis/mis' raising question of gender and identity and the exchange of power.

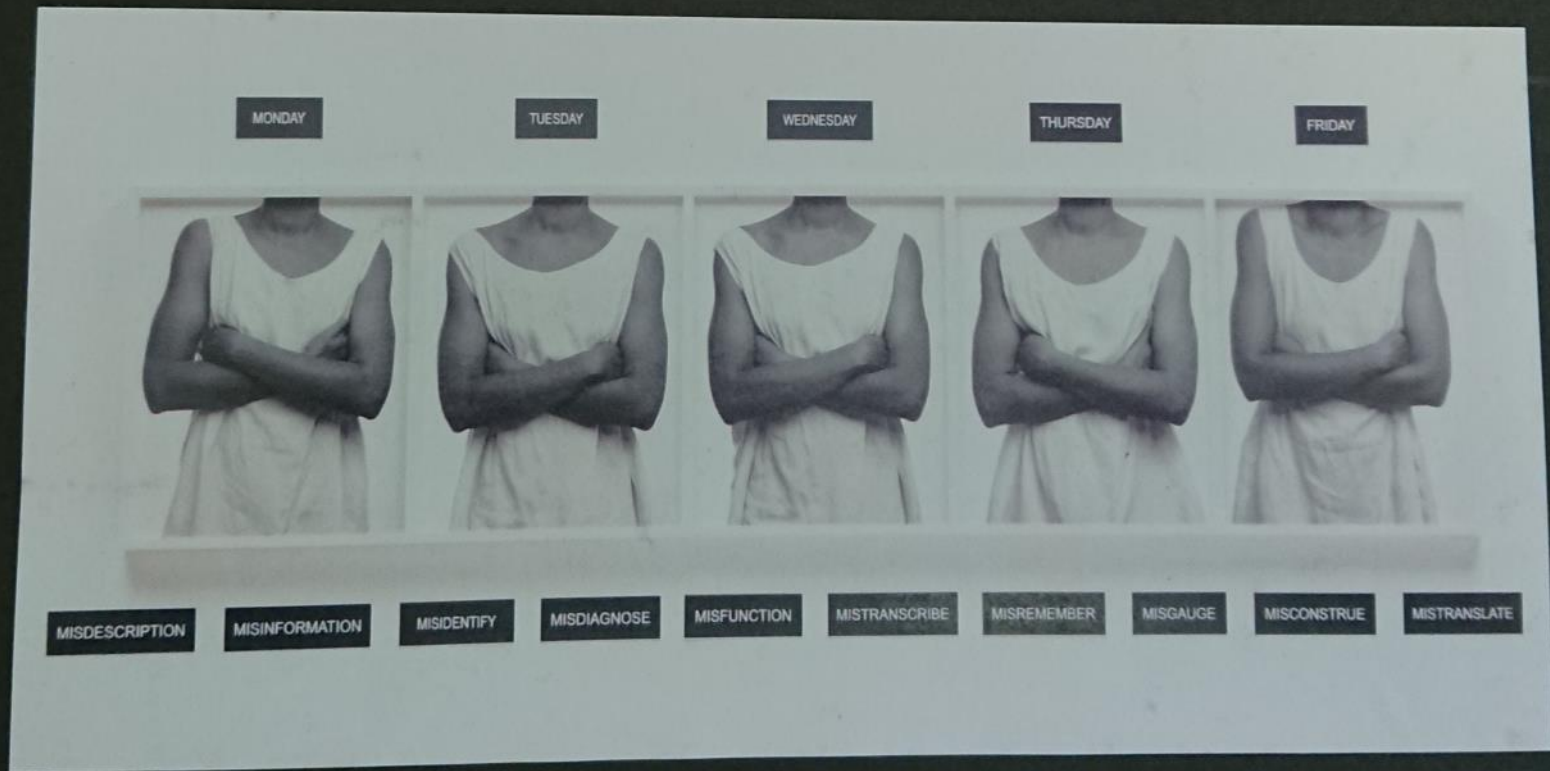
Lorina Simpson work relates to my theme as identity plays a big part in self-acceptance and natural beauty.

It's useful for my project to explore cases where being yourself is not that easy due to power, race, miscommunication and other challenges to our identity.



# T T A T T E V I S I T L O R I N I A S I M P S O N \_\_\_\_\_

I came across Lorna Simpsons work at the 'Tate'. I found her work very powerful and organic. Despite the fact that what you can see is very limited; a little definitely means alot in Lorna Simpsons work.



Five Day Forecast, 1991, Lorna Simpson

These words negative

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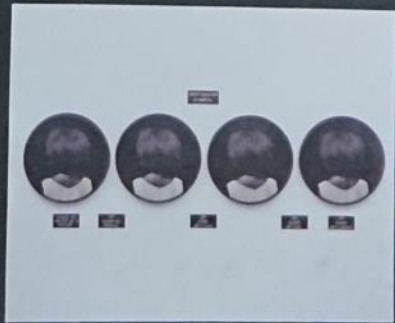
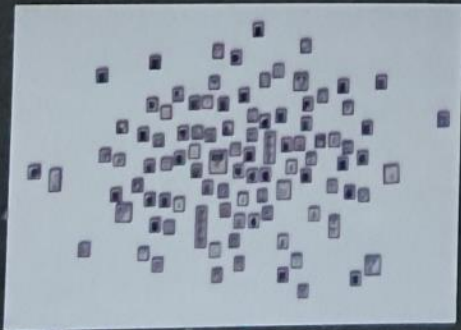
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# THE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALLERY

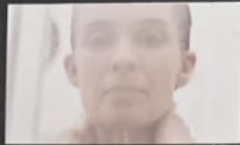
Visiting The Photographers Gallery  
I came across the work of  
Simon Fujiwara: Joanne.

Firstly I watched the short film that consisted of Joanne talking about how she would like the public to see her, whilst we follow her through her day to day of making this film, like a behind the scene it takes a slight documentary approach. We see Joanne in her natural state an environment though sometimes during the film the atmosphere is not always genuine. It could be felt that she is acting, to add to the overall image of how she would like to be seen.

The film demonstrates Joanne with many different abilities though she says 'I feel like I'm cheating if I say: I am a model, I am a teacher, I am a lover, I am an artist, I am a fighter, I am a person... I am a fighter, I am a remake. What I found interesting is that Joanne has done all of these things. However she feels she is cheating if she claims all of these titles, as though she feels society won't accept her as such a multi talented 'woman'. We see a very vulnerable side to Joanne in the film especially when she talks about a scandal which changed alot of people perception of her.

As a result of this scandal Joanne went on a quest to rebuild her brand, to show people she is a woman of many talents.

After watching the film I saw the images which was the outcome of the film. I was slightly disappointed with the result as I thought the images would be more natural something organic where we could see the beauty of her personality. Instead I saw the shots as quite boring and magazine like. The images don't tell us she has many talents and that's she's a lonely person. It makes her look like any other model, selling a sports brand, not herself.



→ The pictures weren't air brushed too much which I liked you could still see her mole and her body hair

Hark lighting / fixed messy hair / subtle make-up made up / still looks

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→ The picture went

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Harsh lighting fixed messy hair

↳ subtle make-up still looks natural



# SHOT OF AJAH...

Another one of my best shots.

One of my best  
best shots  
from this  
shoot.



IMG\_2647 IMG\_2613 IMG\_2612 IMG\_2611 IMG\_2610



IMG\_2609 IMG\_2608 IMG\_2607 IMG\_2606 IMG\_2605



IMG\_2603 IMG\_2602 IMG\_2601 IMG\_2600 IMG\_2599



IMG\_2598 IMG\_2597 IMG\_2596 IMG\_2595 IMG\_2594



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IMG\_2583 IMG\_2582 IMG\_2581 IMG\_2580 IMG\_2579



IMG\_2578 IMG\_2577 IMG\_2575

Some of the images were unsuccessful due to them being over exposed or too dark. The more successful ones had good tone and even lighting.

# AJAH - IN NATURAL ...



This picture was taken using a 1/7.1 aperture. You can tell as everything is in focus and in strong line. I did this to emphasise and pull together Ajah and nature. Ajah can be seen as slightly over exposed. The ISO is high, allowing the natural light to inter play with the natural setting. I like the colour contrast between the dark leaves and the light leaves. As they compliment the brown and blonde in Ajah's hair.

As Ajah's hair is in its natural state it ties in well with the mood of the shot which is a calm natural atmosphere.

Also Ajah is wearing no make-up so we can really see her natural curves and complexion.

The ISO is low in this shot as you can see the shot is quite dark and not exposed to much light. Although it's not too dark that you can not see the subject and her surrounding.

I happen to like the tone of this image as it enhance Ajah's neck line, her cheek bone and her nose as well as the general shape of her face.

The shot reminds me of movement even though the image is very still and in focus. Through the softness of the leaves and the way Ajah floats in them so naturally.

In addition the way the leaves outline Ajah's silhouette she looks at one with nature.

These images are not highly edited for a reason as I intend to comment on no make-up no hair extensions, just natural. Even though you can still have aspect of natural beauty in your shot even if your model wears make-up like photographer Trey Rasado

I just feel me not overly editing helps me reinforce my views on natural beauty



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## LEADING LINES:



This shot was taken from a very low angle in order to really portray these amazing parallels of the windows and the building itself.

This shot is more reflective on architectural presence rather than nature but still has patterns of natural components. The audience can see this through the plant and Ajah's hair.

In addition the colour of Ajah's hair complements the buildings. The red brick against the yellow bring connotations of Egyptian building as yellow is a strong colour in Egypt being a symbol of gold and riches. Due to the low angle it makes Ajah look empowering.

## REFLECTION:

I really enjoyed this shoot and I thought the outcome was quite good. I preferred the shots where Ajah is on top of the plants simply because I feel it is a good symbol of nature. Also as a whole the subject and setting compliment each other very well as they are both a product of natural creation. Where as the building isn't seen as natural though the colours do help reinforce Ajah's hair, which is natural.

# SHOOT PLAN & PREP:

Firstly, I saw Yvonne on Instagram what first ~~draw~~ <sup>caught</sup> my attention was her hair it was so big and had so much texture and to be honest I really wanted to know if it was real. I then noticed that she wore no make-up but still had quite a lot of followers. Her natural beauty enticed and I knew from the I wanted as my model.

## THINGS I DID:

- 1) Need to contact Yvonne and ask her to agree to shoot with my
- 2) Pick a theme for the shoot
- 3) Pick a setting
- 4) Day time?  Night time?
- 5) What will these images tell my audience? - Question

Yvonne agreed to shoot with me. I wanted a really natural leafy setting as I thought it would reinforce the textures of her hair. Day time I thought would be best so that I wouldn't have to use flash I could rely on the natural light. I want the images to portray Yvonne as a strong natural black woman. Though I haven't met her yet her images on Instagram lead me to believe she is strong minded and intellectual. Therefore I decided an interview would be necessary in order for me to get to know her and her reasoning for being natural and her views on natural beauty.

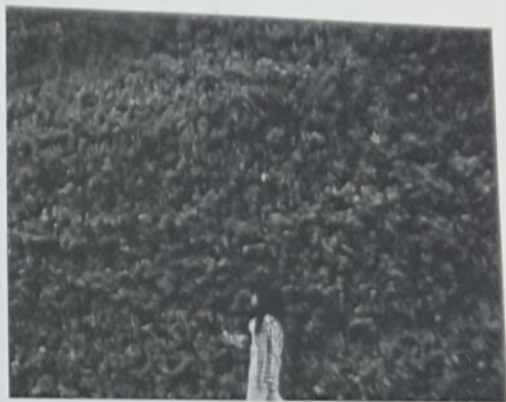
I thought it was brave of her being on such a big platform like Instagram no make-up and having natural hair.

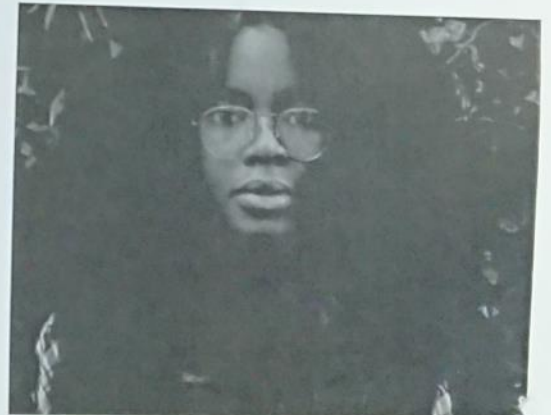
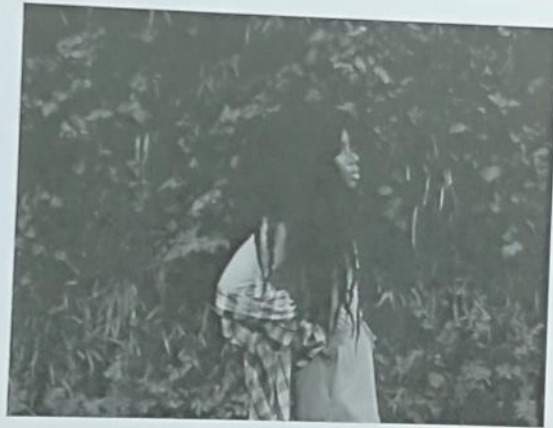
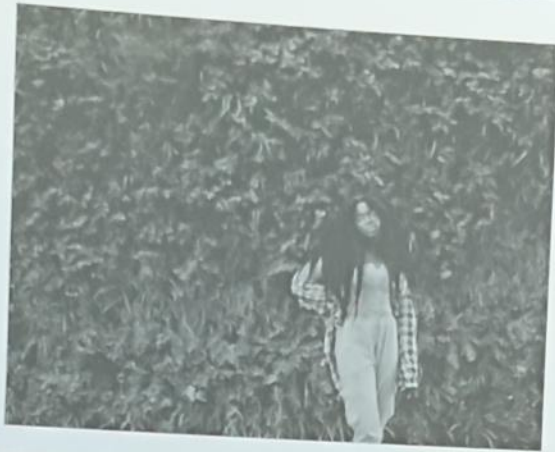
It's a real inspiration to young black female and females in general.







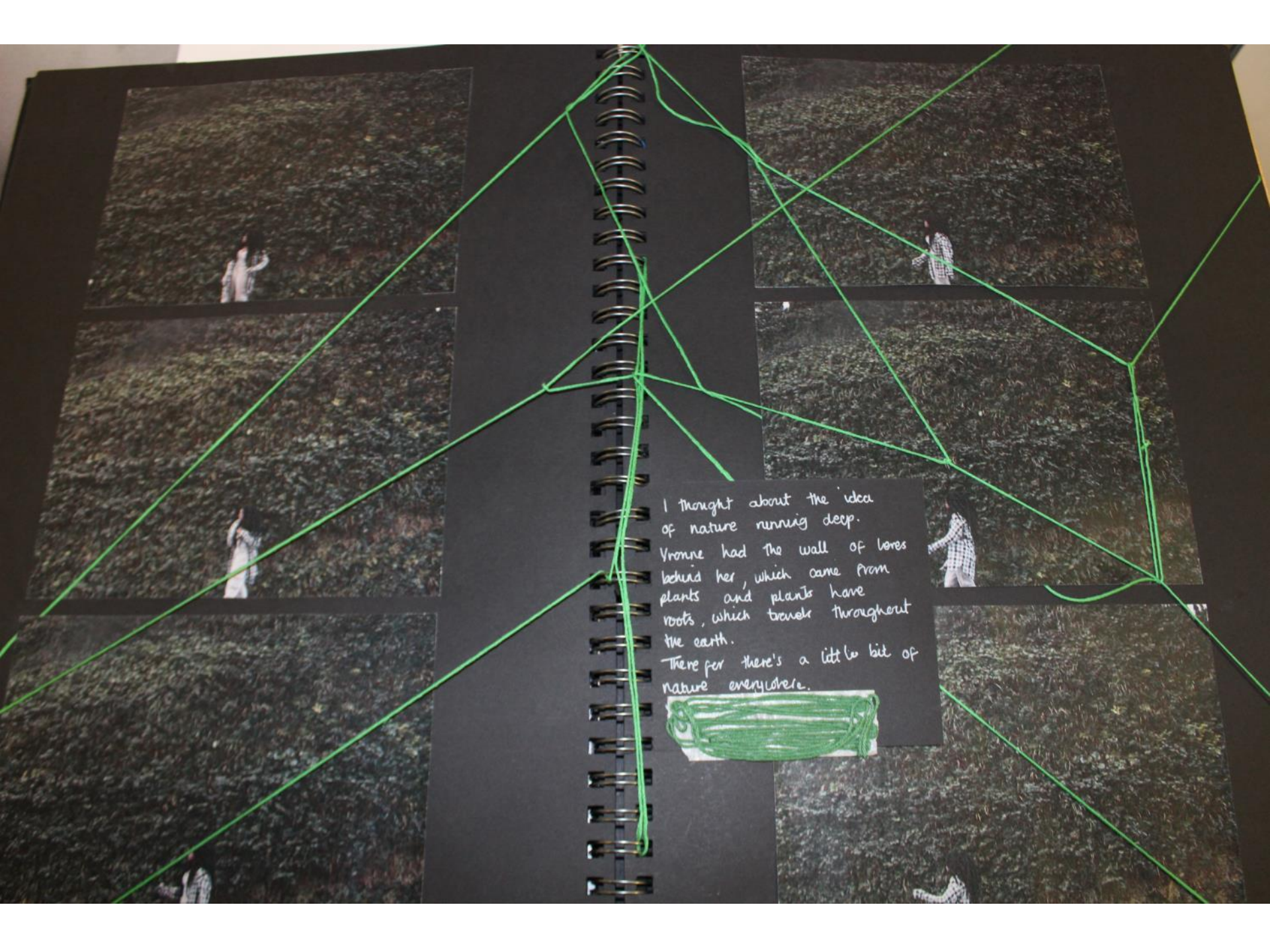












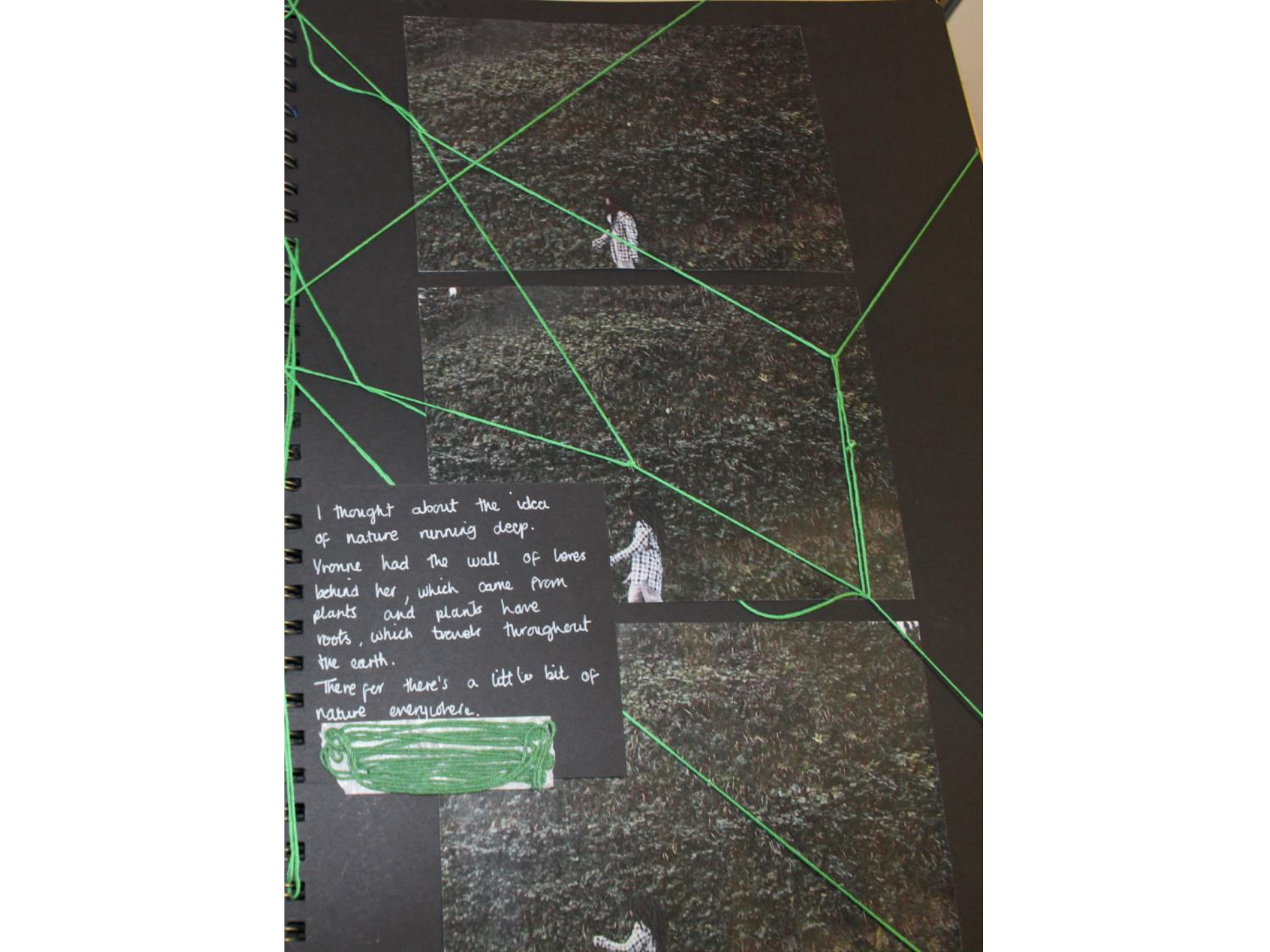
I thought about the idea  
of nature running deep.

Vronne had the wall of bones  
behind her, which came from  
plants and plants have  
roots, which travel throughout  
the earth.

There for there's a little bit of  
nature everywhere.








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Firstly, what I really admire about this image is the way Yvonne looks straight into the camera. This reminded me of the model in Benjamin Hennox's shoot also this idea of honesty and truth. Yvonne is very comfortable and in love with the person she is. By that I mean 'a black, Ghanaian natural woman'; I believe natural beauty doesn't come in a better way than self-love. I like the way she touches her hair which allows us to appreciate these bold traits against the shape of the leaves behind her.

I asked Yvonne to keep her glasses on to reveal to the audience this intellectual side that I foreshadowed about her.

I didn't photoshop the image too much simply adjusted the levels slightly and the contrast. I don't believe she needed it. Her skin is flawless besides a slight purple on her forehead.

"How I feel about being African, being Ghanaian, being black and living in this country. Well I am very proud of my heritage!" When looking at this photo of Yvonne her posture always brings me back to her interview when she told me she's proud of who she is. Her head held high, her eye directly at the audience, her chest open reveals this strength, her identity which she accepts and tells the audience to accept because this is who she is. This was one of my strongest shots as it reveals who Yvonne is.



Yvonne is a strong, beautiful, Ghanaian female living in London.



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Yvonne is a strong, beautiful, Ghanaian female living in London.

Yvonne:

How I feel about being African, Being Ghanaian, being Black and living in this Country. Well I am very proud of my heritage I have always be I have been brought up with Ghanaian traditions in my house hold. Certain foods we eat, certain celebrations we go to certain signs of respect that we show our elders etc., so I feel like I have still been connected to that even though I didn't live in the country in 17 years, yeah I mean I love it but there is also this thing where you do kind of feel abit disconnected to it because you grew up with the African British version of being African not the African version of being African which is like something you notice when you go back, like when I go back to Ghana, I'm definitely the outsider the foreigner , "oh you can't speak the language", "oh you dress differently", "oh you do your hair differently". And it's always great going back; you wish you knew more about the culture you're from... yeah that's how I feel about it. I feel great about it and I feel that a lot of young people are still in touch with their African side. Like even when 'Afro Beats' like blew up and everyone was proud to be African. Because before that things were a bit iffy, people with them long Nigerian names would shorten it down, "I'm not Babatunde just call me B" do you know what I mean? When people use to shorten down their names because they were embarrassed of how 'Aff their name sounds. But now that Afro Beats come out I think its greet I love being African. I have also grown up in a very multi-cultural area, before I use to live in Sheffield, Lancaster and Fulham ... every white dominated area. I was the only black kid in my entire class and I was ignorant to certain things that I look back and see that I didn't even realise that, that was happening, do you know what I mean? I remember there was this one girl, okay I'm going to tell a story... one day I went to Ghana on holiday with my family and then I came back and I had a weave and I was like probably like 5 or 6 and people kept coming up to me like "you know you're not allowed to where wigs in school" and I was like "it's not a wig it's a weave" it was a sew on like I wasn't wearing a wig, they just kept coming up to me , it was really annoying. There were just little things that happened that I didn't even notice that I was different I was just ignorant to it and I'm very happy I was ignorant to it because I feel like if o knew it would have been difficult for me to handle it. But when I moved to Stratford and I grew up there it was very multi-cultural , a lot of Asians, a lot of black people ... it had a different energy I never really felt like I have to be anything else in order to fit in and I'm very happy to have had that up bringing I'm very happy I didn't have to grow up in west London and my parents made that decision to move us there so that we were around people around us I feel like that's very important.

Me:

I liked how you talked about being around other people like you helped you not get challenged and tested on the person that you are as identity is very important for self-growth and self-acceptance and self-love especially when you're coming from a rooted place. Like you came from Africa and it's good that you didn't lose that and it's good that your parents brought you up in that so you're not losing your roots. I think that when people are born here and they are around people that are nothing like them, straight away they get stripped from everything that they are and they become something else they're not and you might not notice it but society is really challenging you but you conform so easily.

Yvonne:

Its survival man even when I see people, this may be controversial but they have lost their blackness, like I don't know if that is the right way to say it but even when you see people that are like that and you can tell, I don't even blame them for it because it's a survival technique. Luckily I was in a situation where I didn't need to change to fit in , but if I was in that situation i don't know what I'd do. If I stayed in Fulham and Lancaster id be the only black kid in my class and I'd have my friends come over and I asked my friends what they want to eat soup or jellof rice and they didn't want you eat because they didn't understand they didn't want to eat the banku and I'd have to tell my mum "can you not cook that when they're here" because if I had that I don't blame people for not being in touch with their roots because it's a survival technique you just have to get by not everyone is focused on being black 100% of the time some people just need to get on with their lives and do what's easiest for them to survive. When you live in London you really forget how much of a minority you are because when you step outside of London your like wow, "there really are not that many black people"

Me:

So you know how you talked about hair, what do you think about hair? do you believe in weaves because your hair right now looks like it's your hair , the texture matches like we was saying some people are out of touch and they have to conform and they have to change their hair

Yvonne:

Do you want to speak for 10 years, okay hair is a difficult thing like I said I was wearing a weave at 6 years old I had a curly weave, and it weren't a straight weave. From day one my hair journey was, relaxer, my mum relaxed my hair and the only reason we stopped relaxing it is because my mum had said "you're doing your own hair yourself" she just stopped doing my hairs so I said okay I guess I have to do it and I just didn't relax it , cause who was going to do it for me? I just left it and then I just let it grow natural it got to a part where it was half natural and half relaxed because I didn't cut off the relaxed ends. It got to a point when I was like "Yvonne just do something" I just ended up cutting off the natural bit and deciding to go natural

and it wasn't even necessarily a political choice I just did it and then I realised afterwards I'm very happy I went natural cause the thing is it's a very difficult situation you find yourself in especially as a black women we're all modelist every black women is representative of every other black women. I feel like the politics of hair with black women is a very specific kind of sub culture microcosm and there's so many ways you could go with this, my personal view on weaves I will never wear a weave as like maybe if I'm like dressing up or experimenting but I'd never wear straight weave to me I feel like me doing that is mean I guess conforming but to me I don't feel comfortable doing that because I like my hair texture I like my 4c hair I don't want to straighten it and I don't want European hair. To be honest with you a lot of times when I see black girls with long straight weave I look at it and to me it looks ridiculous, cause I know that's not your hair , lace fronts, to me you look stupid. Some people would probably say how can you say that it's my choice , im still for choice but I think it doesn't look right.

Me:

I feel like a lot of people know that within themselves like they know that this is not them and their just following a trend. I feel like your hair is you accepting everything about you... Like "yes I am black, I've not got silky soft hair I've not coolie hair either I'm literally just afro kinky"

Yvonne:

I believe people will praise natural hair as soon as its on someone that is mixed but then a black walks in with her 4c curls its nappy its untidy its messy. If I girl wears a weave at the end of the day I'm not policing anyone's choice to wear weaves, I also don't wear makeup I'm not going to go up to someone and say you need to stop wearing make-up that person is that person



# EXPERIMENT:

My favorite thing about Yvonne was her hair, though my photography of Yvonne reveals shape and texture, I wanted to create a 4D experience; tapping into all my audience senses.

I cut out Yvonne's face from a photo I had taken then made twists from wool to give my audience a sense of what I experienced.

As I believe our eyes set this standard of beauty, this experiment takes away vision in order to feel true beauty in textures.





Nakeya Brown uses colour which twin or complimentary each other. For example the pink comb and headscarf matches the pink background. Her colours are also quite soft, I think this is done as harsh colours may over power and distract you from the meaning of the work.

# NAKEYA BROWN...

Nakeya Brown's photography provokes questions around black identity and femininity both things which play a big part in natural beauty.

Brown's work is really colourful and eye catching, I feel this is done in regards to selling and advertisement. Selling black women a new image

She also incorporates instruments and items associated with black women's hair regimes.

Nakeya Brown relates to my project as it communicates the challenges of having natural beauty when black. Whilst revealing the power of image in media.

I like the fact that she has used products as it relatable, black, white asian everyone uses products, may be to alter, change or maintain a certain image.



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IMG\_8201



IMG\_8202



IMG\_8203



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IMG\_8216



IMG\_8217



IMG\_8218



IMG\_8219



Jan edit



jans hand edit 2



jans hands 3



jans hands 4



jans hands 5



IMG\_8190



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IMG\_8198

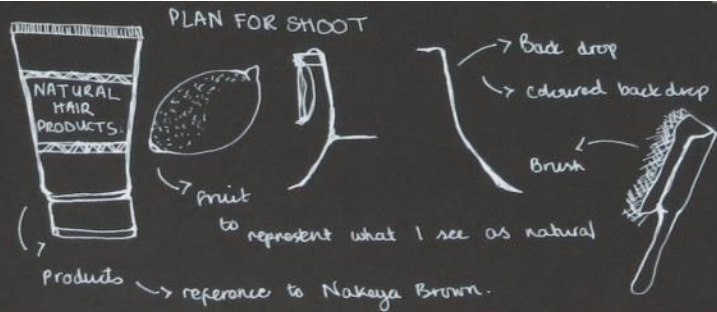


IMG\_8199

Made a slightly brighter.

The images was quite dull and I wanted them to be vibrant.

This shoot was done in response to Nakeya Brown.



This is one of my proudest shoots the colour works really well and it looks like an advert, which I wanted to achieve when taking this shot.

This reminds me of Nakeya Brown's photography as she notes in to beauty requires, I put the products in order on purpose to give this step by step, require idea.

These are products I use from home, they are supposedly went to be for natural hair; no chemical changes to the hair, which I find contradicting as products contain chemicals in order to obtain a nice scent and stay preserved.

This is one of my proudest shoots the color works really well and it looks like an advert, which I wanted to achieve when taking this shot.

This reminds me of Naheya Browns photography as she works into beauty routines, I put the products in order on purpose to give this step by step, routine idea.

These are products I use from home, they are supposedly went to be for natural hair; no chemical changes to the hair, which I find contradicting as products contain chemicals in order to obtain a nice scent and stay preserved.



Here I added some hair instruments some of which I use daily some of which I don't use at all. The lemon represents nature and contradicts beauty stores idea of natural beauty.

Nakeya often looks at perms and relaxer products, my hair use to be relaxed which is a chemical treatment many black people undertake to make their hair permanatly straight. However my hair is completely natural now and I wanted to make this shoot quite personal so I used products I am currently familiar with.



NAKEYA BROWN PHOTOGRAPHY:  
representation...

I see hands as a very important part of our body as often it is what we use to ~~imitate~~ manipulate different parts of our body.

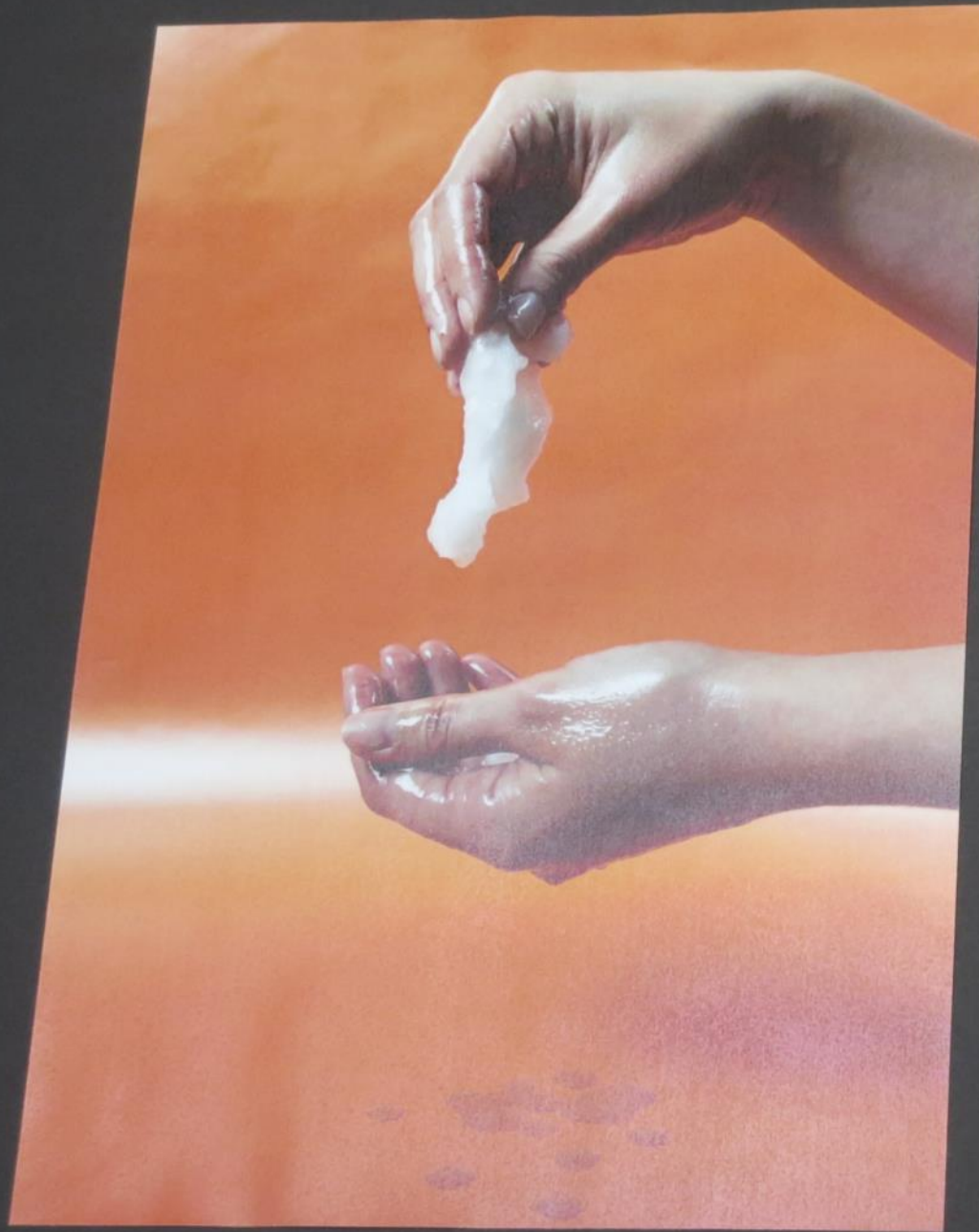
I did this shoot in reference to Nakaya Brown 'Art of sealing ends (Part II)' from 'Hair Stories Untold' as I felt it tied in well with manipulating natural beauty.

In this shot the subject is burning the ends of the synthetic extensions. This is the final step of getting braids put in, however the braids aren't attached to anyone's head which gives use a sense of disconnection.

In turn changing the idea of it being the final step of a new hair style, for getting rid of the hair style completely, by burning the whole thing.

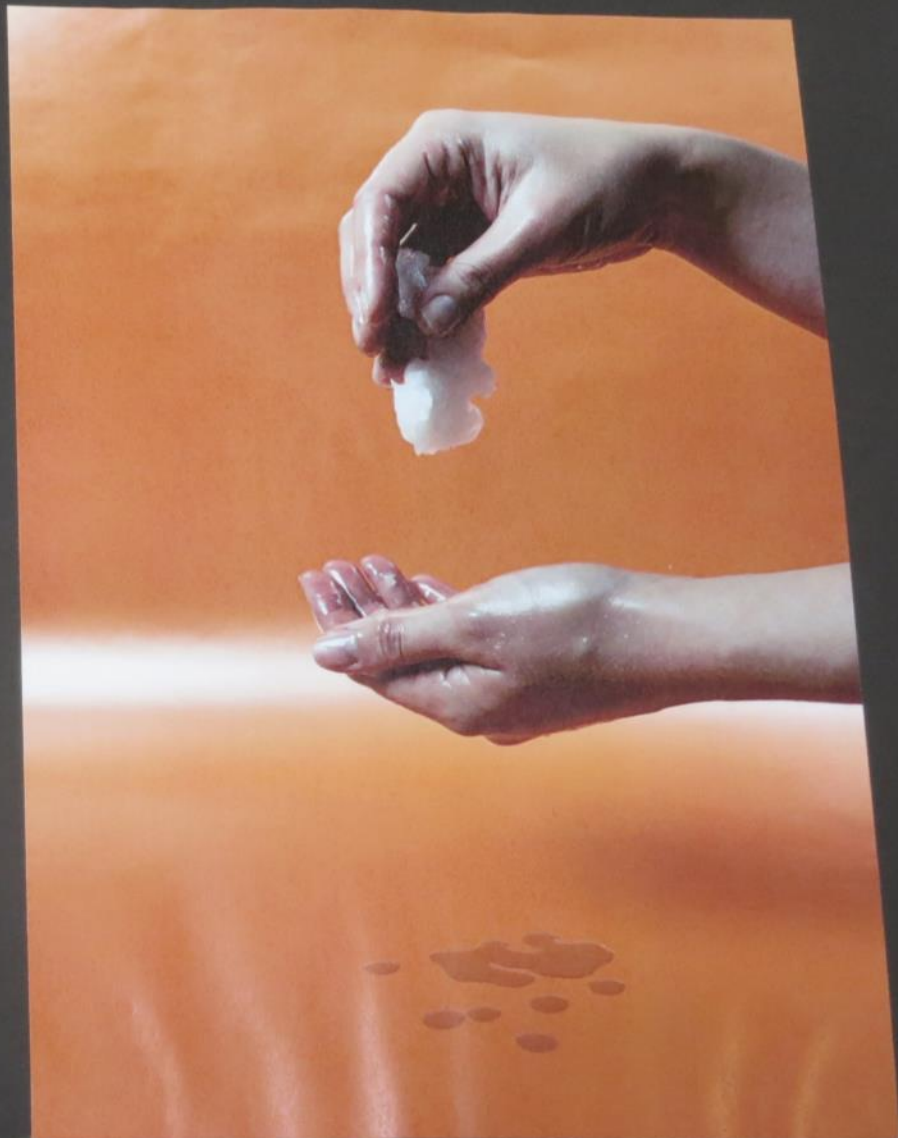
the transformation  
in state.





The model is holding coconut oil, this shoot holds the idea of having nature in your hand.





Whilst we was shooting the coconut oil started to melt which was really nice as it happened naturally. The orange worked well as it makes the models skin look illuminating and tints on the areas where there is oil. Its naturally beautiful.



The fast shutter speed helped to capture the melted coconut oil which is dripping from the models hands in contrast to the solidness of the whole coconut oil.

I thought the effect of the dripping coconut oil on the back  
drop was cool so I took some shots. I like that there is a little solid bit  
of coconut oil.



Smell me...

Smell the scent of a RAW coconut.

## DARK ROOMS

I really enjoyed this darkroom experience.

At first we had to check the lighting in order to change the F-stop and the aperture, this ensured the images didn't come out too dark nor too light. After we took the pictures we opened the film in a dark bag to prepare it for developing. The black bag stops light from damaging the film. After we washed the film and printed them into thumbnails to pick which ones we wanted.



Contact sheet: Dark room photography.

This is the first time I've used a film camera and I was really impressed with the results.



I love the way Ayah looks straight into the lens.  
It's a very honest shot which I like, also it was naturally taken,  
she wasn't posing, Ayah was mid sentence when I took this.  
This shot has a shallow depth of field as we can see from  
Ayah's bottom lip down it is blurred.



The mono tone helps to bring out details in Ayan's por such as, the beauty mark on her nose and cheek, as well as the little creases in her lip. It also helps to expose the natural changes to ones body due to everyday activity for example Ayan's puffy eyes due to a lack of sleep and tired. The light is harsh on her face in contrast to the shadow of her hair which gives a nice tonal balance.

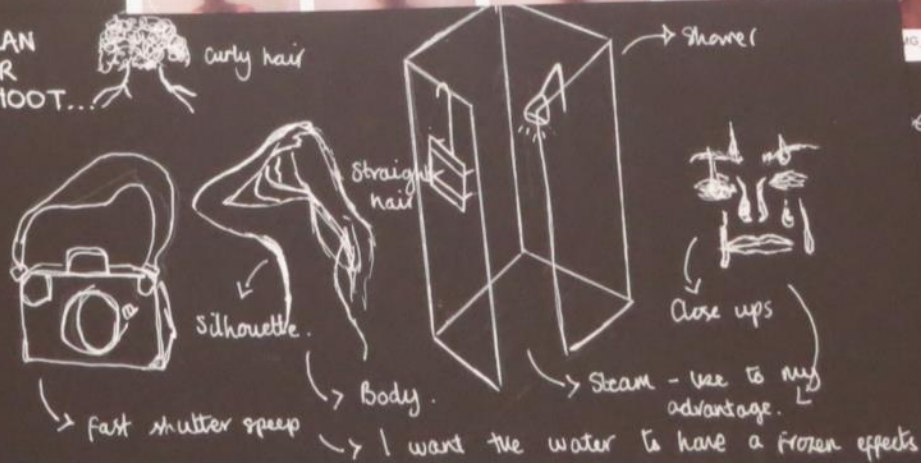
BATHROOM SERIES & THE EXPOSED ...

I edited these with Lorna Simpson in mind. I used repetition and ask the model to change position slightly.



Body hair is being removed by many things wax, razors, laser. So I found it weird to see hair

PLAN FOR SHOOT...



e and

LORNA SIMPSON ...



I took these shots in response to Lorna  
and white is really effective. However  
to be effective in what I wanted  
shaving, waxing and hair removal is seen  
women who don't shave are seen as  
Therefore when I saw my cousin's armpits  
and I was shocked at first but





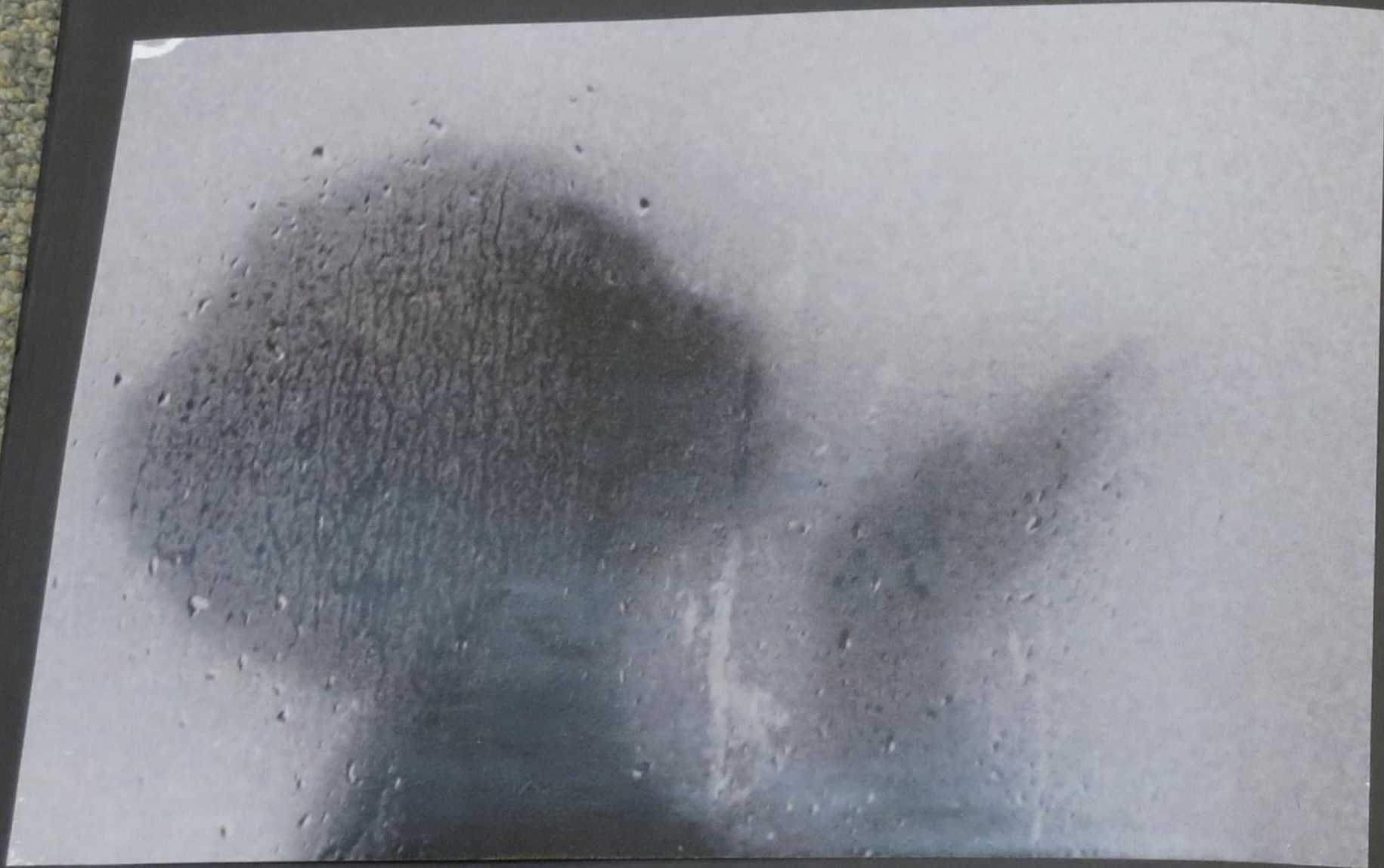
Simpson. The simplicity of it being black because of the lighting they didn't deem to portray, which was natural body hair as a must in society especially for women. undressed and less beautiful. had hair because she has never shaved I wasn't thrown off. I was okay with it.



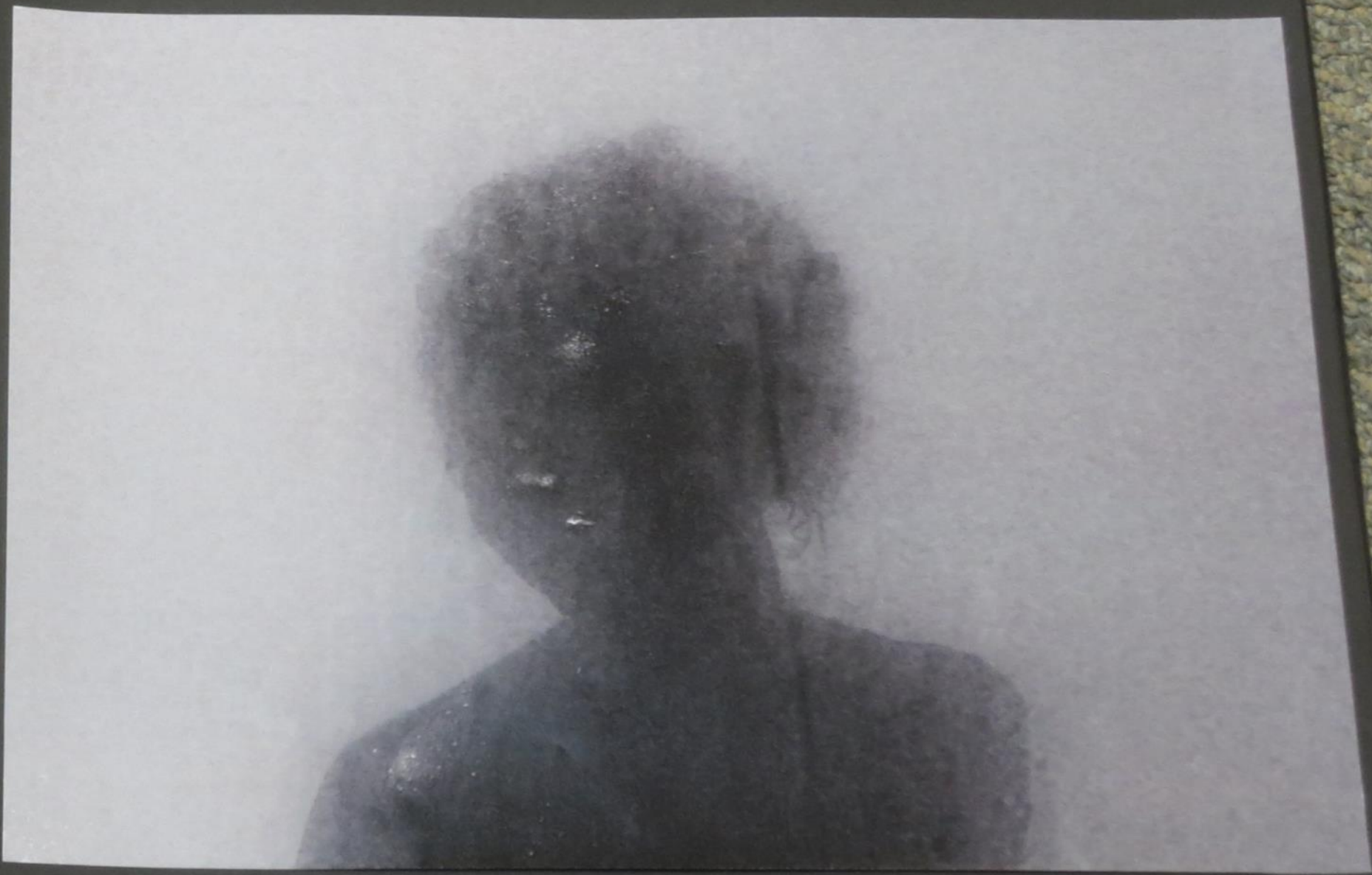
After doing the dark room shoot I was inspired to do black and white the vibe of my project as well as introducing a new aspect. As a result in their bathroom as they are exposed, in their own space. I then began to out natural beauty in people as it connects everything back to it's natural For example the models hair was straight and after the shots had been taken



photography. I began to think about what setting would best suit a came up with the bathroom series. Many people feel most comfortable think about water and how the relates to natural beauty. Water brings for as well as putting moisture and life back into things. it was completely curly.



Whilst shooting the grass started to steam up, I liked the effects of the cracks due to condensation. I like how the water contours the models body also its a bit here this is done naturally with water and steam.



and water splashes. Naturally the room steams up when there is hot water  
similar effect of Joey Kasado painting on his models to reemphasize curves



In this shot I used the rule of third to show the transition of my model. on the left side we see the models hair is dry, on the right the glass is steamed so we can assume she is wet. By the glass being steamed we start to think about how we hide our natural beauty from society. Only when we get into our confined spaces we are most comfortable to de-mask.

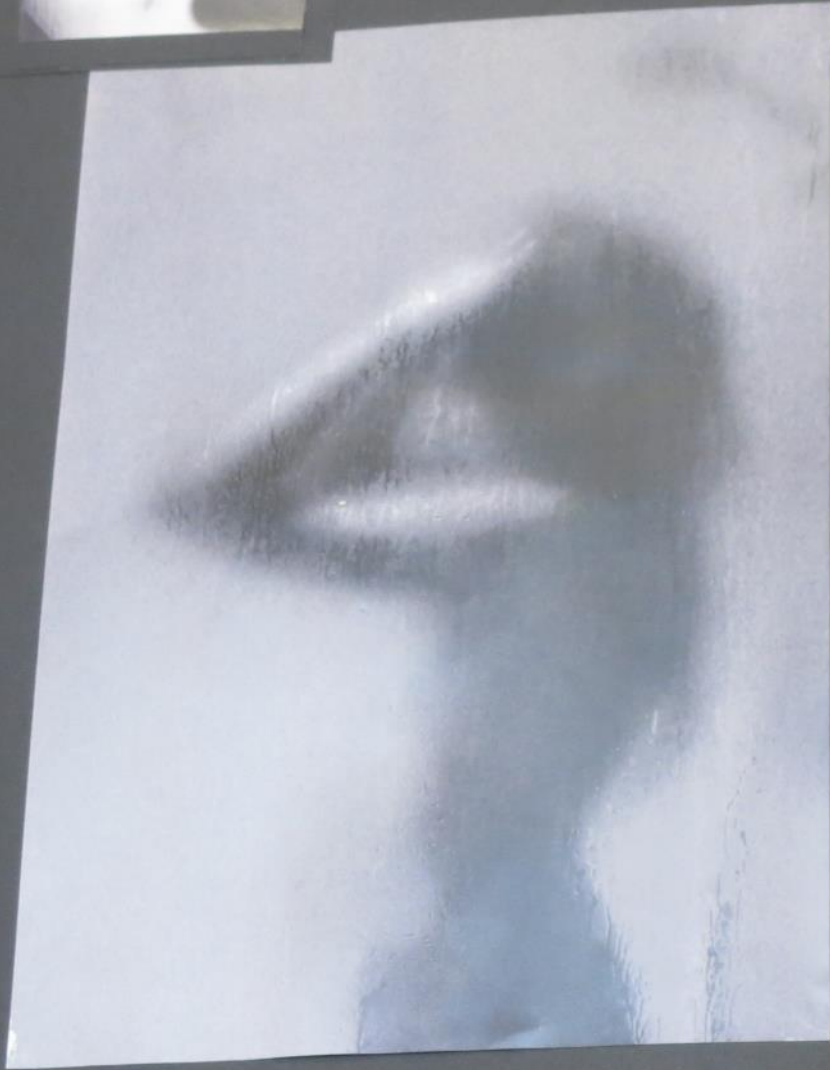


I like this shot as you can see some of the model's hair, face and hands  
This can be seen as a process of clarity, reinforced by the way she holds  
her head.

Saul Leiter



Saul Leiter's subject matter is different to mine. However I feel the style is very similar to the style of the photo.



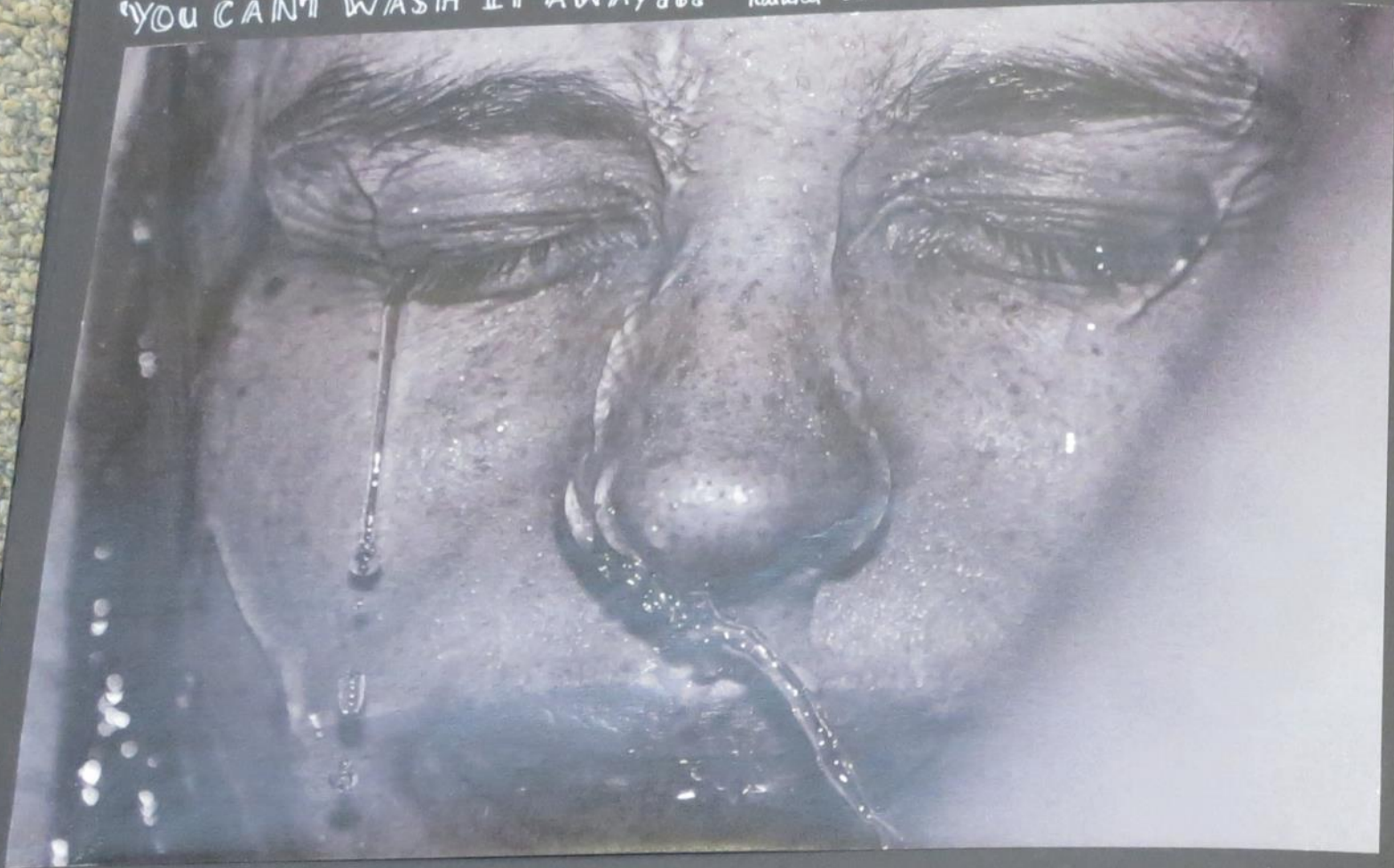
From my model's posture it looks as though she is washing away society's expectation of her; to be perfect. The form of the model shows she is embracing her femininity and natural beauty.





I printed the image on ~~black~~ brown paper to change the colour without changing it on the computer, the brown gives the image a nice texture as it changes the black in the image, this changes the shape of the silhouette of the model.

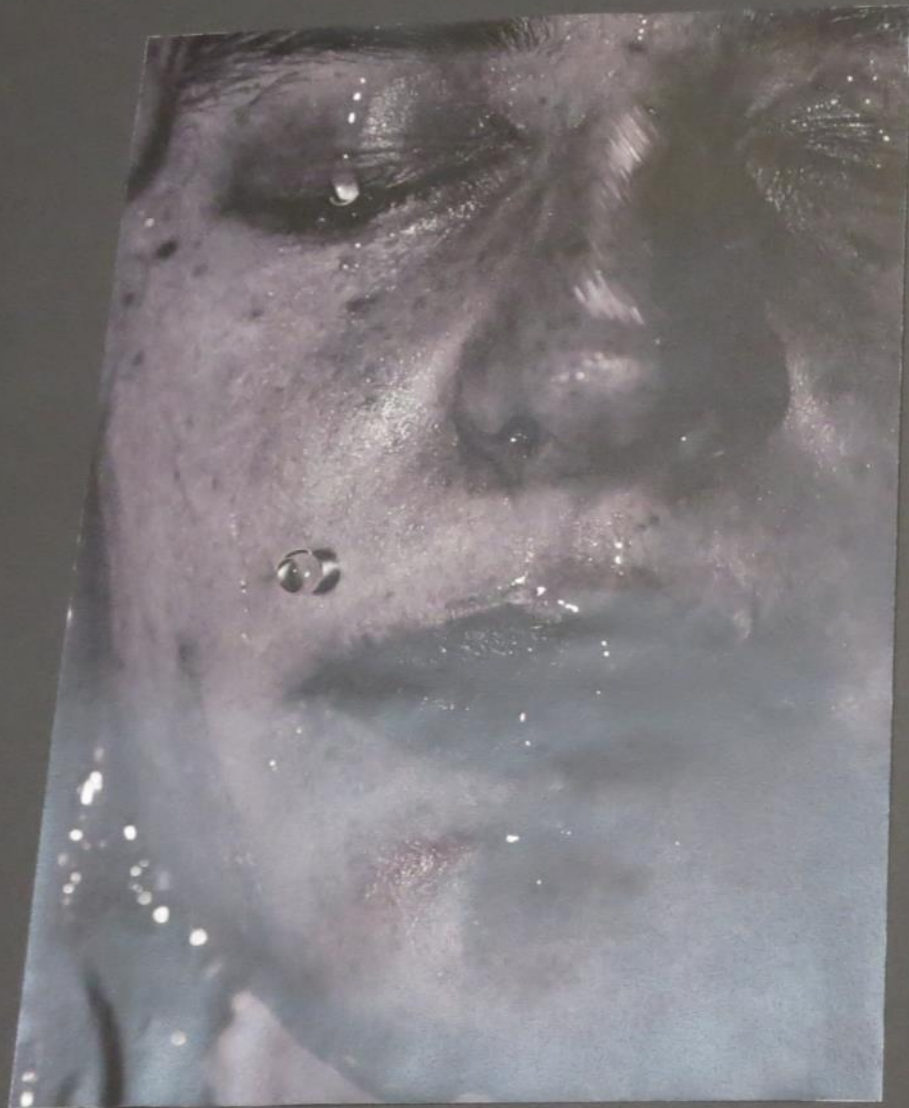
'YOU CAN'T WASH IT AWAY' natural beauty can't be washed away it's here to stay.




These close-up reveal how natural elements work together to create shape and life. The model's eyebrows have never been plucked which helped this idea of shape and line as you can see the odd hairs moving in many different directions has caused the water to swirl and make beautiful diamond shape patterns.



The power of natural beauty. The shutter speed had to be fast in order to freeze the water. I wanted to freeze the water to use it as a glass, as a symbol of transparency. You can see all my model's imperfections, freckles, black heads, hair, wrinkles all of which magazines would blur out.



The way the water has frozen like marbles giving the photo's nice shadows and contrast in tone. I use photoshops black and white filter and adjusted the ~~right~~ red and yellow in the photo to give it a really grainy and real effect.



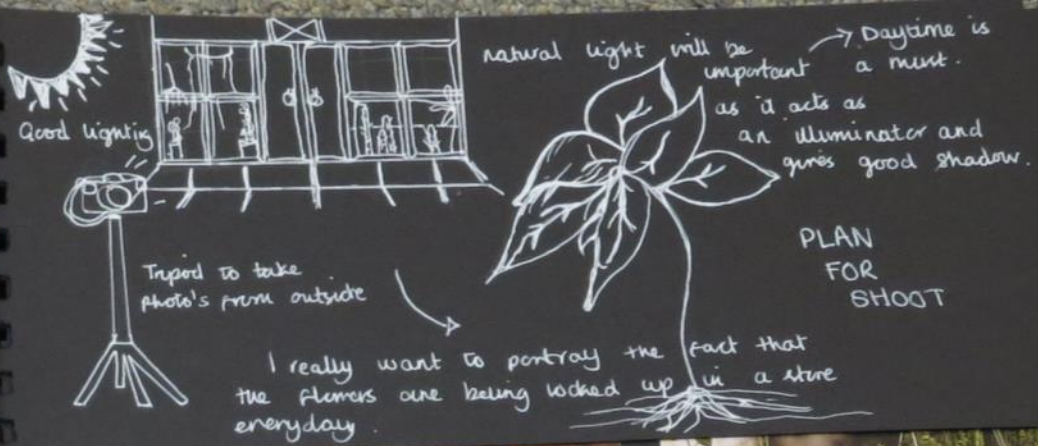
I really enjoyed this shoot and believe  
it's the most effective to my project.  
For my final outcome I hope to  
create something on the same level.

## CONSERVATORY ARCHIVES

After doing the bathroom shoot I really began to think about the subject and how it's space and how they interact. I came across conservatory archives which is a indoor plant store. When I saw them they looked abandoned as they were locked up at night. I went back the next day and the plants looked alive and beautiful. The idea of plants not being out around other plants upset me; they are just enclosed and surrounded by buildings these man made sky scrapers. Just as the plants are surrounded by buildings so are people. Humans should be surrounded by plants as they are both natural things and depend on each other to live.



The freshness of the scene is captured by the beautiful natural lighting and the shadows of the plants. The brown chair complements the branches and adds a nice balance. I edited the image purposely to have a yellow tint; the reason I did this was to reinforce the sunlight which had been shining through. Sunlight is very important to a plant's life.



## PORTRAIT AND BENJAMIN LENNOX RESPONSE 000

- A
- a This shoot was inspired by Benjamin Lennox I liked the way he used Gold to
  - a represent value and honesty both things which I believe are great attributes
  - a to natural beauty.
  - a Just like Lennox my model isn't wearing any make-up, has her eyebrows
  - a or hasn't been plucked and her hair is in it's natural state.



Like Lennox I also wanted to make a statement about natural beauty. Natural beauty is the most valuable thing in my opinion as it's harder to be naturally beautiful than it is for you to not. To have natural beauty you must be pure, rich and beautiful on the inside and on the outside.

I gold was put in certain areas to illuminate, so that when the light hits there is the shimmering highlight contouring the model's natural cheek and nose structure. Also the model looks into the camera so strong and direct as if she has nothing to hide because what you see what you get.





IMG\_9050



IMG\_9051



IMG\_9052



IMG\_9053



IMG\_9054



IMG\_9055



IMG\_9056



IMG\_9057



IMG\_9058



IMG\_9059



IMG\_9060



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IMG\_9042



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IMG\_9045



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IMG\_9049

Outcome Critical reflection



I wanted my outcome to reflect natural beauty in every way possible whilst adopting techniques and ideas from the photographers which I explored as well as techniques and ideas I have discovered throughout the duration of my project. I feel like I have successfully done this with trial and error subtracting and adding to make the best piece which makes a statement.

'Colours' and 'The only Bath' are what I decided was appropriate for the shots as a collective. This image is from the collective 'Colours'.



I picked a rich skin complexion which I thought would complement colour well; before doing the shoot, I tested the flowers on my previous shots from 'bath room series'. As I was fond of the outcome of that shoot and knew I wanted to do something similar but adding follows to represent nature. Between the darker skinned model and the lighter skinned

model, I preferred the darker skinned model.

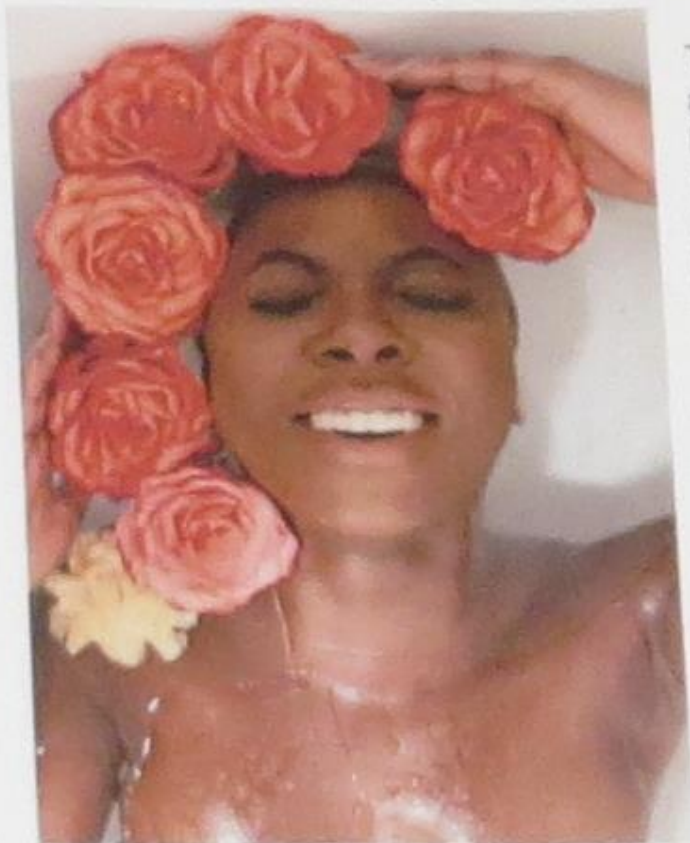


The rose with the dripping water is from *'The only Bath'* and was inspired by the shots I did for *'The bathroom series'*. Rather than a person I used a flower. *'The bathroom series'* shoot was something I saw as a success. I see water as a representation of honesty and transparency, of which I respect. What you see is what you get in this case natural beauty on the outside natural beauty on the inside. Water is also used to purify the interior as well as the exterior this could reflect that the model is a clean hearted person which would make her beautiful as nothing she does as impurities nor done out of spite or bitterness. I also liked how the water contoured the body and defined the shape. Therefore I incorporated water in my final outcome.



At the very start of my sketchbook I looked at the photographer Joey Rosado. This is where I started to question the standard of beauty and what natural beauty is; as his models were make-up and look photo ready. Like professional models. Rosado reveals to me natural beauty is embracing all that you have and not dwelling on what you don't have. Therefore, means wearing make-up doesn't make you any less of a natural beauty than the

next women who wears no make-up; the make-up is used to enhance and highlight the beauty that is already there and not to hide it. As well as the fact, you need to be beauty on the inside to be classed as naturally beautiful.



This shot of mine reminds of Rosado's photography of the women with lilac; as you can see the models beautiful smile as she is laughing. In addition, Rosado uses colour and flowers as a symbol of nature, I adopted this idea to reinforce my models natural beauty. Thus, none of my previous models wore make-up but I wanted to see if I could still portray a naturally beautiful person by using elements of nature whilst wearing make-up. As I stated before it helps to highlight some areas and give a soft glow to the skin, doesn't make her look fake or unnatural at all.

Overall I believe the final outcome was successful in terms of bringing other successes together to make an affective piece. This constantly expresses natural beauty and its elements.













