1st discussion

From my point of view, image manipulation is a great combination of creative art and technology. Manipulation enhances the beauty of artwork as well as brings art to the higher level. It does require smooth skills and the creation to make amazing works. Therefore, a photography manipulation cannot be evaluated as trivial work. As I said, manipulation improves photos' quality. Consequently, image manipulation should be used widely to conceive various imaginative and gorgeous artwork. However, I think using image manipulation with mischievous purpose is cheating. It does not only deceive viewers but also lower the value of art.

I choose this photo to demonstrate my point. In my perspective, it is a controversial photo. This photo was taken by two brothers, Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths. As you can see, it was about a young girl and small winged fairies. This photograph did cause many arguments around its reality. Nonetheless, those tiny fairies are not real. They were actually cardboard cutouts which were made by those two artists. Image manipulation is a wonderful invention in photography. People can enjoy many artworks in the most aesthetic

approaches. Nevertheless, these two brothers indulged image manipulation to deceive people in order to make them believe in their photo. It cannot be considered as an artwork which was created by using manipulation. Even though they consisted on seeing fairies, this photograph is still a lie. It does violate the reality and the creation of photography.

Image source: http://pth.izitru.com/1917_00_00.html

Other source: https://www.artinstitutes.edu/blog/pict
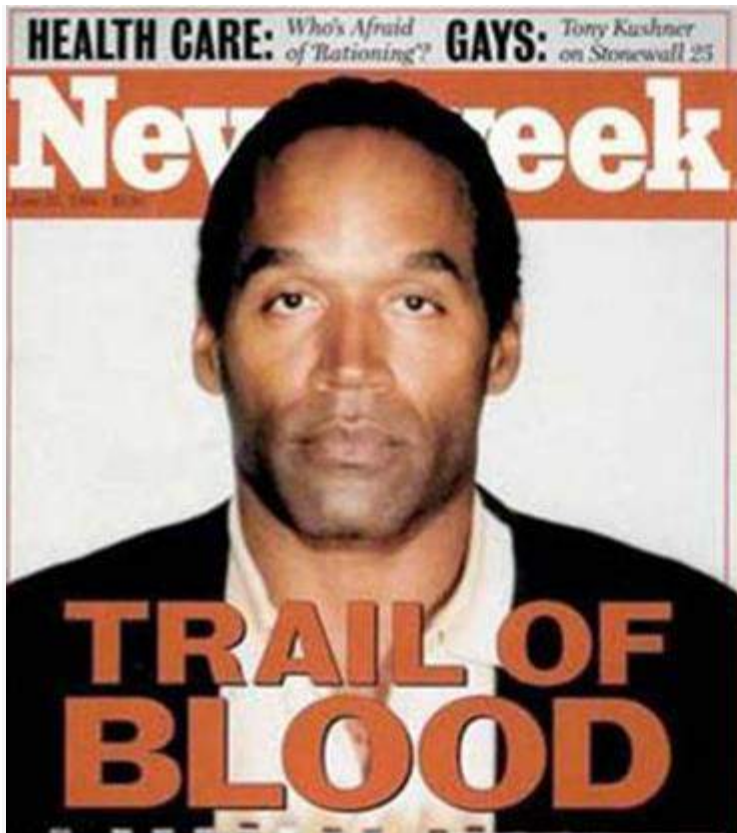
2ˢᵗ discussion:

I chose this photo from a GQ shoot of Kate Winslet. I think this photo says a lot about the present. We are a society that is wrapped up in too many useless things. Our looks are one of them. I admit, sometimes I see these covers and think, "I need to lose weight. Why isn't my skin that flawless? I could never pull off that outfit." However, I feel that these are all lies

that the media feeds to the public. This is the media saying, "this is the standard that the general public should strive for." Small waists, large busts, flawless skin.

I think the media controls a lot about how the public thinks, which is a terrifying thought. This cover reminds me of the post mentioned above regarding OJ Simpson. Whether or not he is guilty or not guilty, there's no doubt that Time magazine published this cover with the hopes of portraying him in an evil and murderous way and swaying the publics opinion. This is yet another example of how photo manipulation has been used in a negative manner.

HEALTH CARE: Who's Afraid of Rationing? GAYS: Tony Kushner on Stonewall 25

Newsweek

TIME

TRAIL OF BLOOD

An American Tragedy

The use of photo manipulation is prominent in our society today. However, I believe that the public is becoming more aware and is taking a stand against this. For instance, when it comes to the manipulation of women, such as Kate Winslet, many companies are becoming more aware that this is not what real women look like. Aerie, a lingerie brand aimed at college aged women, decided that they will no longer manipulate photos and started their "real campaign" which features the every day women, unaltered. I think this is a trend more brands and media outlets should follow.

http://www.arogundade.com/oj-simpson-murder-trial-case-time-and-newsweek-magazine-cover-controversy-1994-oj-simpson-photo-manipulation.html

http://pth.izitru.com/2003_01_00.html

3st discussion:

In the use of technology today, photo manipulation can seem very different from the old-fashioned way of taking a photo. The use of image enhancement may not seem like an original photo but there is an art involved in changing a photograph and making an image come alive through a computer program. In the photo above, the interpretation seems to be giving a message on how homeless people are forgotten and blend in with the background. This can be seen as metaphorically getting lost in the walls or streets. Although the photo has been altered, the hybrid photograph between the actual and enhanced image has given itself a purpose by sending a creative message that tells the story of the meaning of art.

-Christine Salcido

4ˢᵗ discussion:

This is an edited picture for Filipa Hamilton by the Ralph Lauren Company to market women clothing. The proportion for her waist and hip are obviously unrealistic and found to be a post-production result of photo editing. The purpose of this picture is for advertisement so it should generally not be considered as art. Therefore, aesthetics is out of question here. It is a commercial act of marketing activity, which requires audience's critical thinking to distinguish truth from lies. We should not either ban or encourage such practice because it is up to consumers to make correct decision. There are laws to protect consumer rights on false representation of information. In this case, there could be a case of violation. British parliament member Jo Swinson ordered Lancome to take down London billboard ads featuring Julia Roberts and Christy Turlington because they were "not representative of the results of the products could achieve (Weissman 2014)."

Then, what if this picture was posted in a museum, not in a display window of Ralph Lauren chains? I would say it is an interesting piece of art and not a terrible lie because displaying in museum creates a disclaimer that the picture is a subjective view of the author's.   So the limit to decide whether a doctor picture amounts to a lie is whether an author or a publisher makes it clear about the purpose of use.

There has been some debate on whether all photos are in some sense "doctored" because they always represent a photographer's subjective view. Either to edit a picture using Photoshop or to take a shot using different exposure or shutter speed or white balance can affect the visual aspect in a great extent.   It can be futile to find a clear line to distinguish truth from lies in photography. It is actually more effective to consider all pictures are subjective or "lies" created by a photographer while some lies are good and some are bad.