



[DISCUSS]

The Untitled

– *for Untitled #404, 2000 (cibachrome photo print) by Cindy Sherman*

BY NICOLE MIYASHIRO

Discussion Points: Alliteration, Tone, Poetic Diction

Discussion Questions:

1. Does this photograph call to mind a personal experience for you? If so, how does your personal experience relate to or contrast with the poem's interpretation?
2. What is the role of alliteration in this poem in relation to the photograph?
3. Which details in this photograph are left out of the poem? What would you write in response to those details?
4. How is common language used to describe this photograph poetically? What does a poetic description offer that a clinical or neutral description would not?
5. This is an untitled painting by Cindy Sherman, who is known for "experimenting with different identities" by dressing up and photographing herself. (Gaylord, 2016)
Aside from this, what do you think prompted the poem title? What title would you give a poem in response to this photograph?

Sources:

Gaylord, Kristen (Beaumont and Nancy Newhall Curatorial Fellow, Department of Photography). "Cindy Sherman: American, born 1954." *MoMA.org*. 2016. 17 October 2020.
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<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learn/glossary-terms/alliteration>

"Glossary of Poetic Terms: Tone." *Poetry Foundations*. 2019. 17 October 2020.
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learn/glossary-terms/tone>

Hirsch, Edward. "Poetic Diction: From A Poet's Glossary." *Poets.org*. 11 November 2014. 17 October 2020. <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/text/poetic-diction-poets-glossary>