

Cindy Sherman – Analysis Example

Description:

This photograph shows a picture of clown wearing an oversized teal printed shall and a big pink afro wig. The facial make-up is dark the creepy smile of the clown and reveals big teeth. The clowns red nose is small and just covers the tip. The background is orange and has a dark vignette that seems to create a halo around the subject.



Analysis:

- There is a contrast between the blue the clown is wearing and the orange background. (use of complimentary colors)
- The vignette in the background creates a halo around the edges of the image creating and emphasis on the subject, the clown.
- The subject is centered yet applies to the **rule of thirds** as the subject is placed within the photograph.
- The **point of view** is from a bugs eye as it slightly looks up at the subject. This point of view distorts the bottom half making the clown look wider at the bottom and creates a sense of depth towards the clowns face.
- The hands act as a directional anchor leading the viewer up the center towards the face (emphasis)

Interpretation:

I am not sure what this piece means, I know that it is part of a series that Cindy Sherman created that was all about clowns. Clowns tend to have a strange effect on people, they are both creepy and comforting at the same time. I think the combination of the makeup, color and costume play a role in creating these mixed feeling/ emotions and unease of looking at this piece.

Judgment:

I think this is a successful photograph because when I look at this I get that feeling of unease; it may be because I find clowns creepy. Compositionally I think this piece works because Sherman chose to contrast colors which balance out the overall use of color.