**Myra Greene Analysis – A grade example**

This photograph is part of Greene's series, character recognition. It was produced in a very old-fashioned way using the collodion process which is an introduced in the 1850s. the process uses a combination of the features of the calotype and daguerreotype and results in an old looking photo. in this process, a black wet-plate instead of conventional transparent glass on which is painted in photosensitive solution and exposed to light, resulting in individual positive images rather than negatives that can be replicated. This particular process was historically used for ethnographic photography in the 19th century when slavery was predominant and by choosing this above other experimental method shows that Greene is making a strong statement and instantly creating ties between her photography and the massive looming issue of slavery and when paired with the close self-portrait style it binds the ideas together in a highly personal way. in my opinion, this says that she is speaking on her own personal history through the photo.

The angle of the photo is an extreme close up and only shows her eyes and part of her nose. the absence of any other facial features immediately draws attention to what the artist intended to focal; point to be. As the eyes and nose are off centre, this creates interest within the photo composition as it doesn't properly follow the rule of thirds. I think that this further shows the idea of imperfection and how the artist has kept this consistent throughout various visual aspects of the photo, in contrast with the idea of perfect and finding the ideal.

Large aperture, small focal length, as focus dissipates around the edges of the face such as the lower part and the nose. A factor that makes this photo highly personal to Greene is the positioning and crop of the photo which means that her face occupies the fore, mid and background.

Black and white/ almost sepia colouring is simplistic and attributes to the clarity of what the artist is showing. personally, I think that the black and white colour serves as a statement in itself as it separates the colour which correspond with her idea of race and identity and isolating her 'blackness'. On the other hand, it makes the photo seem slightly eerie as it has echoes of what the collodion process meant and this becomes a look into the past and history within her 'blackness', In addition to this, it adds to the old look of the photo. It eliminates distractions and this allows the viewer to focus on the texture and greasy skin itself with the large pores too. moreover, the black and white reveals very subtle tones which allow us to see the lighting and where it hits the face. it is unclear where this photo was taken however it appears to have used artificial lighting, which may be the cause of the harsh lighting. this also creates high contrast between the darkness of the skin- which is being challenged as a means of recognising the artists own colour, origin and ultimately character- and the whiteness of the eyes. the white is stark and shows every little detail such as the protein deposits in the whites of the eyes. when looking at this photograph, my eyes are immediately drawn towards her eyes because the whiteness stands out and as the subject of the photo is face on looking right into the camera, I feel that she is looking at the viewer and I find this thought provoking.

This photo is a very true representation of the artist through the use of the extreme angle, I am drawn to look at the very close and intimate details of the face that I wouldn't necessarily have looked at in much detail had the photo been not as close up and I think this shows the intention of Myra Greene. The face has no makeup and appears greasy and flawed, without any modification, this makes it more raw and real in an in your face way, as perfection and "whiteness" in beauty standards is something that can't be avoided in modern day commercial photography and in the same way Greene's flaws can’t be escaped from the photo as she presents herself so close up. This is something else Greene challenges through the series Character Recognition.