

## Visual Documentation of BA-Thesis

Kristina Gavhed

I began my visual documentation as a series of paper-doll cut outs: I added my own head to paper-dolls that I'd found by searching online. I used the same photograph, or headshot, of myself in all images, so that the only thing that changed was my body. By doing this, I hoped to find some way of seeing, visually, what a different body did to my own appearance. It seemed, judging by responses from others who saw it, that my face someone changed or that my personality changed with each new body. The expression did not change at all and yet something in my face seemed to alter. The perception of my appearance altered.

I intended at first to do a series of photographs where my body would be placed on different bodies. I would then alter these bodies and contort them in Photoshop. However, once I did this I thought that the first film which was slightly crude in format still worked better than still-photographs. I then used less altered versions of the photographs and cut them into a short film.

After having done most of my research on remediation and blogs online, I then decided to make two short films. These films show me trying to teach viewers how to do one basic 1940's inspired hairstyle, and one 1950's inspired make-up. I filmed them in my bathroom, with a plain sheet hung over a door to give me a plain background. This plain background, or a bathroom, was something I'd seen in a majority of films. Just like the bloggers and youtube.com users I was taking something I'd learned online and attempting to teach others how to do it – I was appropriating, absorbing and remediating knowledge.

Once I showed the film a viewer commented that she could instantly recognise this type of film. Without meaning to, other than the background, I had copied the expression and style of filming of hundreds of others online. The angles were a bit off, my face dropped out of frame and the focus was a bit off. Another viewer, a man, commented on the expression on my face – that there is something instantly recognisable in the grimaces a woman does when she applies make-up.

I think in the end others who were a bit removed from my project made me aware of just how similar my attempt to recreate a video-tutorial from youtube.com was to the original.