

## **16 Ways of Looking at a Photograph**

Class Exercise: Chapter 14, The Male Gaze

This class exercise has to do with assumptions we make based on what we know, or think we know, of people's genders. Compose a list of visual attributes that you would describe as "feminine." Now compose a second list of visual attributes that you would describe as "masculine." Now, looking at each of your lists, what kinds of skills, social powers and privileges, or levels of intelligence, do you assume will correlate with the items on your lists?

This last answer is your third list and it draws from both of the earlier two. Remember, that in your first two lists you mention only attributes that are visible, that have to do with appearance. What photographs have you seen lately, in the past few weeks, that support or shore up ideas of femininity and masculinity that correlate with your lists? Do images on social media, in the movies, or in advertising, correlate with some or all of the items in your first two lists?