

Image Editing as Hideous Manipulation...

I'm dead against retouching pictures. Today, with the use of photography post processing services, a lot of people have been cheated into thinking that perfect beauty of body and face does happen. But in reality, this kind of perfection is simply impossible. Even superstars have some flaws and imperfections, like flab or cellulite, but that's not what we often see in the magazines. As a result of these ubiquitous flawless bodies and faces, many young women may suffer from eating disorders or depression. Skinny figures are not healthy and shouldn't be promoted as a canon of beauty. That's my humble opinion.

– Ulas

s hideous 'hɪdiəs | ohydny
to be dead against sth
| być zdecydowanie
przeciwным czemuś

I loathe flagrant retouching but sadly so many bad commercials do it these days, and it looks downright creepy. I don't really mind the use of Photoshop to slightly enhance a picture, however I often don't see the need. For instance, some shots of Angelina Jolie who normally looks stunning in the original pictures, make her look plastic in the edited version. I honestly don't understand why people think that's prettier. I like my celebrities to resemble humans, so I don't buy all these artificial alterations. Oh, I almost forgot, photo manipulation is time consuming and it requires a lot of space on your laptop or computer.

– Maja

I'm not an editing aficionado. For me, retouching photos is a lie. Although a lot of young and tech-savvy people are aware of these methods already, it can create a false and unrealistic body image. Seeing only perfect models on drastically retouched pictures distorts people's perception of beauty and can lower our self-esteem and confidence, and hence build unnecessary pressure to conform to the advertised ideals. Life is too short to spend it on crash diets. Of course, I don't mind some minimal touch-ups, but using tools that make you look slimmer and taller in just a few clicks is too much for me.

– Vita

to be cheated into sth | zostać
zmanipulowanym
flab | tłuszcz, obwisłe ciało
cellulite 'sejʃulajt | cellulitis
ubiquitous ju:'bɪkwɪtəs | wszechobecny
flawless | bez skazy
eating disorders | zaburzenia żywienia
humble 'hʌmbəl | skromny
to loathe sth | nie cierpieć czegoś
flagrant | rażący
commercial | reklama
downright | wręcz
creepy | przerażające
to mind sth | mieć coś przeciwko czemuś
slightly | lekko, trochę
to enhance sth | poprawiać coś
stunning | oszałamiająco
to resemble sb | przypominać kogoś
artificial | sztuczny
alteration | zmiana, przeróbka
to require sth | wymagać czegoś
although | chociaż
to be aware of sth | być świadomym czegoś

A lot of people mistake photo manipulation and photo enhancement to be the exact same things; yes, they are analogous, but in my opinion, they are not one and the same. Photo enhancement is where minimal changes to the image are made, such as removing red eye and other discolourations, whereas in manipulation, the editor can make drastic changes in the image, wherein the person can either make it look disturbing, stunning, or just unrealistically handsome. It is often used for advertising campaigns. I don't support any of these changes as I believe in the natural charm and beauty of both landscapes and people.

– Joshua

To Sum Up...

Nowadays, thanks to the tremendous milestones in terms of technological advancement, people are more skilled and able to retouch photos more effectively and convincingly. There is no doubt that digital photo editing has a great impact on both the subject and the viewer, since it actually helps the person gain self-esteem by giving a virtual makeover; however, the fact that it could also destroy a person's confidence in real life, generate false self-acceptance, and distort people's perception of beauty should also be considered. //

to distort sth | zniekształcać coś
perception | postrzeganie
hence | stąd, dlatego
crash diet | intensywna dieta odchudzająca
a few | kilka
to mistake sth | mylić coś
analogous ə'neɪləɡəs | analogiczny, podobny
whereas | podczas gdy
wherein | w którym, w czym
either... or... | albo..., albo...
handsome | przystojny
to support sth | popierać coś
charm | wdzięk, urok
tremendous | kolosalny, ogromny
milestone | kamień milowy
in terms of sth | pod względem czegoś
advancement | postęp
convincingly | przekonująco
doubt | wątpliwość
impact on sth | wpływ na coś
actually | w rzeczywistości
to gain sth | zdobyć coś
makeover | całkowita przemiana wyglądu
to generate sth | tworzyć, wytwarzać coś