

The Fat Black Woman's Poems (Grace Nichols)

- Bodies
 - “Her poems constitute an overt attempt to challenge conventional (white) male definitions of black women, as well as to redefine black female identities in new and unexpected ways” – Maite Escudero, ‘Race, Gender and Performance in Grace Nichols’ *The Fat Black Woman’s Poems*, *Journal of International Women’s Studies* (2000) 1.2, 12-26, p.12
 - ‘Beauty’
 - “Redefines beauty and exposes it as a social construct” – Melissa Johnson
 - “The fat black woman responds lustily, assertively, and unashamedly to British (and Western) concepts of feminine beauty and behaviour” – C.L. Innes
 - Audre Lorde, ‘Uses of the Erotic’
 - ‘Invitation’
 - “She proudly exhibits her fatness and praises the magnificence and sensuality of her body through erotic images that subvert the stereotype of fat women as lacking sexual appeal” – Ana Bringas Lopez
- History
 - Saartjie Baartman – ‘Hottentot Venus’
 - Born 1789 in South Africa
 - Sold into slavery around 1808, brought to the UK and exhibited around the country
 - Subsequently moved to France and exhibited there too
 - Died 1815
 - Her body dissected and her skeleton, brain and genitals were preserved and placed on display in Musée de l’Homme until 1974
 - Her remains finally repatriated in 2002
- Language
 - “I like working in both standard English and Creole. I tend to want to fuse the two tongues” – Nichols