



Ming Smith *Untitled*, New York, NY, July 4, 1981

Some questions:

Paragraph 1

- **What can you see?** *(Describe the picture in as much detail as you can. Imagine you are describing it to someone who can't see it. Try to use as much subject specific vocabulary as possible E.g. composition, space, shapes, lines, texture, pattern, focus, light, balance, tone/colour, mood/atmosphere etc.)*
- **What kind of picture is it?** *(The picture belongs to the genre of street photography but it is an unusual image. Genres of picture have particular conventions - we expect to see certain features/qualities in them. What do street photographs normally look like? Why is this one different/unusual? Why does it upset our expectations?)*

Paragraph 2

- **How do you think Ming Smith created this image?** *(Look carefully at the various parts of the image. If you were challenged with making a picture like this, how would you do it? What equipment, tools, processes and techniques might you use?)*

Paragraph 3

- **How does this picture make you feel?** *(Now that you've spent some time looking at this image, try to describe your feelings about it. Try to use a range of adjectives - describing words - and don't worry if your feelings are unclear or contradictory. It's possible to feel several different things about the same picture. Avoid saying that you "like" or "don't like" the picture - it's not relevant)*
- **If you could talk to the artist, what 3 questions would you ask her?** *(It's important to ask thoughtful questions that might reveal something important about the picture. Avoid questions like 'How/why did you make this image?' Try to be more specific.)*

Paragraph 4

- **How does some basic research help you understand the picture and the artist's practice? How does your understanding of the picture change/improve?** *(Read the information on this [web page](#) and watch this [film](#) about the work of Ming Smith. Then, write a few sentences about what you learned from your research).*
- **How does this picture relate to the theme of *Creative use of Light*?**