

# Children Looking Back

## ARTIST'S STATEMENT

This group of watercolor/gouache portraits was inspired by images from my family photo album. All of the children pictured would now be at least 50 years old. They are my family, myself, friends, and classmates, and I am looking back at them across time.

Children are usually very conscious of the adult gaze. How they interpret and respond to the authoritative gaze shapes their entire lives. When I re-examine the photos, I see children looking back at the adult behind the camera, and at adult authority in general.

The process of painting portraits from the photographs forces me to look closely and intimately at the expressions and body language of these children, whom I once knew or still know. Re-interpreting the image this way helps me bring out what I believe is under the surface.

The way these children look back at the adult behind the camera reveals much about who they were or yearned to be. Have we changed since then?

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