

The Child is the Father of the Man  
By Kathryn Jacobi

The photographs in "The Child is the Father of the Man" address one of the themes that has always fascinated me -- how we age, how the child becomes the old man or woman, and what remains vital throughout a life. In Wordsworth's poem, the eponymous words "the Child is father of the Man" evoke a universe of metaphoric, visual possibilities. I juxtapose a contemporary portrait photograph of an elderly (*or aging*) person with his/her image as a child. I compose and layer the final image until the connection between mortality, memory and imagination, at least in my eyes and heart, becomes palpable.

Kathryn Jacobi is a classically trained, contemporary realist painter, printmaker and photographer who has worked professionally for over 40 years, exhibiting in galleries and museums throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. Throughout her life as an artist, she has worked on two consecutive and disparate bodies of paintings. The first group is based on direct observation or old photographs and relates to her experience of the world. The second group derives from her imagination, with the paintings collectively weaving a narrative of her inner life and its journeys. Over the past decade, she has become more intrigued by what she now considers a third avenue of practice and exploration -- the creative possibilities that are inherent in digital photography and the computer darkroom.

Kathryn was born in New York City in 1947. She attended UCLA, UC Berkeley and CSU Northridge, where she received her BA in 1978 and her MA in 1980. While Kathryn has spent much of her life in California -- she presently lives in Santa Monica and has a studio in Los Angeles -- she has spent much of the past two decades in the forests of British Columbia, where she had a second home and studios.