Transitioning from one stage of life to the next is something we all experience. The shaping of who we become is heavily influenced by our familial relationships, as we often seek guidance from others to form our own identities. This series of photographs captures my two daughters as they navigate their own transitions from one stage of life to the next. My oldest was a twelve-year-old child when I began creating this work, and has since become a teenager. My youngest is only at age four, transitioning between toddler to child. My photographs explore their evolving identities during this time and their relationship to each other as sisters.

It’s interesting for me to observe what my oldest daughter still holds dear. She still enjoys toys from her childhood like dolls and stuffed animals, similar to my youngest daughter. These interests are signs of my oldest daughters’ enduring childhood, as well as, how she connects to her younger sister. At the same time, she is developing her own identity as a teenager. As she progresses into this new age group, she is finding her own voice and strength. She is more interested in cell phones and fake nails, and her relationship with her friends are becoming more central to her developing social world.

With my four-year-old, each passing day inches her closer to five, as she moves away from preschool to grade school. Once helpless, she, like her older sister, is becoming more independent and vocal about her interests in play and social interaction. She is also on a path of discovering who she is, but at a different developmental stage. She is also trying to figure out what it means to be a girl, and looks to her older sister for guidance in how she carries herself and how to play. She still likes play-things that are often associated with children her age such as bubbles, chalk, and dolls, but is also shares similar interests with her older sister.

Their relationship and bond are fascinating to me because I never had a sister and will never get to experience this bond as I don’t have a sister myself. My oldest daughter’s new-found individuality has been influential on her younger sister since my younger daughter desires to emulate her big sister. Their developmental stages mean that they each have age appropriate individual interests. These images show this
new found sense of self they discovered in their separate lives, as well as their common interests that bond them.

Time is fleeting and photography allows one to capture moments that cannot be replicated later. Photography allows the pausing of time and the ability to capture my daughters as they are in this moment, at this stage of their lives. I wanted to explore each of their transitions before all evidence of who they are during this time of their life is gone.

Image List:

**Image 1: Snow Leopard, 2020**
Archival Pigment Print
12x18 Inches

**Image 2: Giraffe, 2020**
Archival Pigment Print
12x18 Inches

**Image 3: Bubbles, 2019**
Archival Pigment Print
12x18 Inches

**Image 4: Two Sisters, 2019**
Archival Pigment Print
12x18 Inches

**Image 5: Stillness, 2020**
Archival Pigment Print
12x18 Inches

**Image 6: Reflection, 2019**
Archival Pigment Print
12x18 Inches

**Image 7: Nails, 2020**
Archival Pigment Print
12x18 Inches
**Image 8:** *Something Blue*, 2020  
Archival Pigment Print  
12x18 Inches

**Image 9:** *Day Dreaming*, 2019  
Archival Pigment Print  
12x18 Inches

**Image 10:** *See Me*, 2019  
Archival Pigment Print  
12x18 Inches

**Image 11:** *Thirteen*, 2020  
Archival Pigment Print  
12x18 Inches

**Image 12:** *Table Stance*, 2020  
Archival Pigment Print  
12x18 Inches

**Image 13:** *Play House*, 2019  
Archival Pigment Print  
12x18 Inches

**Image 14:** *Chalk*, 2020  
Archival Pigment Print  
12x18 Inches

**Image 15:** *Half Time*, 2020  
Archival Pigment Print  
12x18 Inches
1.

Danielle Koenig

*Snow Leopard, 2020*

Archival Pigment Print

12x18 Inches
Danielle Koenig

_Giraffe, 2019_

Archival Pigment Print

12x18 Inches
3.

Danielle Koenig

_Bubbles, 2020_

Archival Pigment Print

12x18 Inches
4.

Danielle Koenig

*Two Sisters*, 2019

Archival Pigment Print

12x18 Inches
5.

Danielle Koenig

*Stillness*, 2020

Archival Pigment Print

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Danielle Koenig

*Reflection*, 2019

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*Nails*, 2020

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*Something Blue*, 2020

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*Half Time*, 2020

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