



Janieta Eyre, *The Sisters Sophie and Sarah*, 2001,  
colour print, 93 x 75.5 cm, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Janieta Eyre (b. 1966) is a Canadian photographer who creates staged compositions. She is known for her portrait photography, notably her ability to produce uncanny portraits that capture the ambiguities of identity. Eyre is inspired by fairy tales, the blue tones of fauvist paintings, fashion photography and biotechnology. In *The Sisters Sophie and Sarah* (2001), Eyre took frontal photographs of herself and then layered the negatives so that she appears doubled in this work. She thus creates a fictitious realm of phantasmagoria: pregnant Siamese twins with

exposed, swelling stomachs stand next to a sculpture of an odd looking horse, a jar containing an octopus and three strange, otherworldly drawings on the wall. The women in this image look like the laboratory creations of a future reality. This work, preoccupied with the idea of motherhood as a form of metamorphosis, is the last in a series entitled *Motherhood*. Eyre creates a surreal world wherein concepts of motherhood, sisterhood and identity are questioned through the manipulation of her own image.

Kimberly Glassman