



# Lise Sarfati Mother and Daughter

Four years ago, Lise Sarfati was travelling across America to photograph teenagers for her 'New Life' series. One of Sarfati's most successful 'New Life' subjects was Sloane, a chameleon-like teenager from Berkeley, California. Inspired by her 'New Life' series, Sarfati returned to the United States to focus on the relationship between Sloane and her mother.

One image from the series (titled 'Mother and Daughter') shows Sloane outside a suburban house. She looks down, away from the camera, her heavily made-up face further disguised by the veil of hair that surrounds her. Sloane is the daughter, but what kind of daughter is she - her face is a mask that expresses no emotion and reveals nothing except a slightly eerie suburbanised beauty. The effect is compounded by other images - Sloane in big glasses in a frilly necked red dress, Sloane by a book shelf, her face a picture of disinterest and boredom, and Sloane in her bedroom wearing the kind of dress that Loretta Lux's otherworldly children would die for.



SLOANE ALMOST STRUGGLES UNDER THE WEIGHT OF WIGS, COSMETICS AND COSTUMES SHE WEARS. THIS LACK OF EXPRESSION AND EMOTION IS DELIBERATE, SAYS SARFATI. "THERE IS LITTLE EMOTION BECAUSE I THINK THAT PEOPLE DO NOT EXPRESS THEIR EMOTION ANYMORE", SAYS SARFATI. "THEY KEEP THEIR EMOTIONS LOCKED UP AND SOMETIMES THEY HAVE NO RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR PHYSICAL ENVIROMENT. INSTEAD THEY WEAR MAKE UP. IT IS LIKE A MASK. EVERYTHING IS INSIDE AND THEY CAN'T COMMUNICATE. THEIR RELATIONSHIP IS WITH THEIR COMPLEXION, WITH THEIR APPEARANCE, WITH THEIR CLOTHES, WITH FASHION."