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## Gypsy Princess

By: Susan Van Dongen , TimeOFF

The photographer's daughter/model is 'my priority, my muse, my co-conspirator, my tormentor and my bliss.'

This is not "Mom's Brag Book."

Even though Robin Schwartz photographs her 6-year-old daughter Amelia, she has no intention of being sentimental. One look at the young lady posed insouciantly in a raspberry tutu, on a yellow stoop in Lower Manhattan, and you know these are not the kind of cutesy photos that get passed around at PTA meetings.

"An artist photographing her own child can invite ridicule, but getting personal with my projects has always been my need and my edge," writes Ms. Schwartz in her artist's statement. "Motherhood is important, adding a new perspective and dimension to my life and work. Amelia is my priority, my muse, my co-conspirator, my tormentor and my bliss. What I hope to accomplish is respectable work, showing Amelia as a versatile individual, no matter that she is a child, and to work in the traditions of portraiture and allegory in photography and painting."



**Amelia's bohemian wardrobe is juxtaposed against interesting settings - a gray demolition site in Hoboken, a shadowy staircase in a firehouse, the ornate doorway of a brownstone. Wherever photographer Robin Schwartz happens to be going, Amelia is there and so is the camera.**



Drawing inspiration from the paintings of Velazquez, Sargent and Botticelli, Ms. Schwartz's photography takes the viewer to playful places where dreamy stories and fantasies can be played out. *Portraits of Amelia*, a collection of Ms. Schwartz's large-scale works, is on view at the Hunterdon Museum in Clinton Aug. 14 to Oct. 16, with an opening reception Aug. 14.

The photographer, who lives in Hoboken with Amelia and her artist husband Robert Forman, says her daughter was a natural subject since they're always together.

Like Harry Callahan, Emmett Gowin and Lee Friedlander, she's using a model she knows is comfortable being photographed, and readily available. Even so, in past years, trying to capture Amelia was almost as difficult as photographing the exotic and domestic animals Ms. Schwartz is famous for. But at the mature age of 6, the young lady is beginning to relish her role as muse, and be proud of the images.