

New Jersey

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Section **14**

JERSEY FOOTLIGHTS

subject and format of her art.

"For 25 years I did black-and-white animals," she said. "Then I had a kid. Now it's big-format color Amelia."

Ms. Schwartz's 6-year-old daughter is the subject of her show, "Portraits of Amelia," on view at the Hunterdon Museum of Art in Clinton today through Oct. 16. The show depicts Amelia, a cherubic child with blonde ringlets, large blue eyes and a knowing gaze, in a variety of settings, often interacting with animals. "I feel like she's my partner," Ms. Schwartz said. "She'll say, 'Let me pick the dog up.' She dictates more now."

Ms. Schwartz, 48, grew up in Linden and lives in Hoboken with her daughter and her husband, the artist Robert Forman. She has taught photography at William Paterson University in Wayne since 1990 and is the author of two books, "Like Us: Primate Portraits" (W. W. Norton and Company, 1993) and "Dog Watching" (Takarajima Books, 1995). Her work can be found in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, among others.

When Amelia was a baby, Ms. Schwartz said, she spent lots of time at the Metropolitan Museum with her. "I really enjoyed being around all those paintings," she said. Among her influences, she said, are Diego Velázquez, John Singer Sargent and Sandro Botticelli.

After the death of her mother in 2003, Ms. Schwartz said, she began photographing Amelia in earnest. "I didn't want to run around," she said. "She's the most important thing in my life."

For her part, Amelia said she likes being photographed. She also enjoys taking pictures of her house, her three dogs and her two cats. "I have a digital camera," she said. "My daddy gave it to me." Her favorite picture in the show is called "Elmo, Amelia and Abu," in which she appears with two animated monkeys inside a circus trailer. But her favorite animal is the reindeer, and a small herd of them surround her in a photograph by her mother called "Reindeer Dance." "I like the antlers because they feel soft," she said. "They feel like velvet." Information: www.hunterdonartmuseum.org or (908) 735-8415. *Michelle Falkenstein*

The Apple Of Her Lens

They say that having a baby changes everything. For the photographer Robin Schwartz, the changes went beyond 2 a.m. feedings. Having a daughter changed the