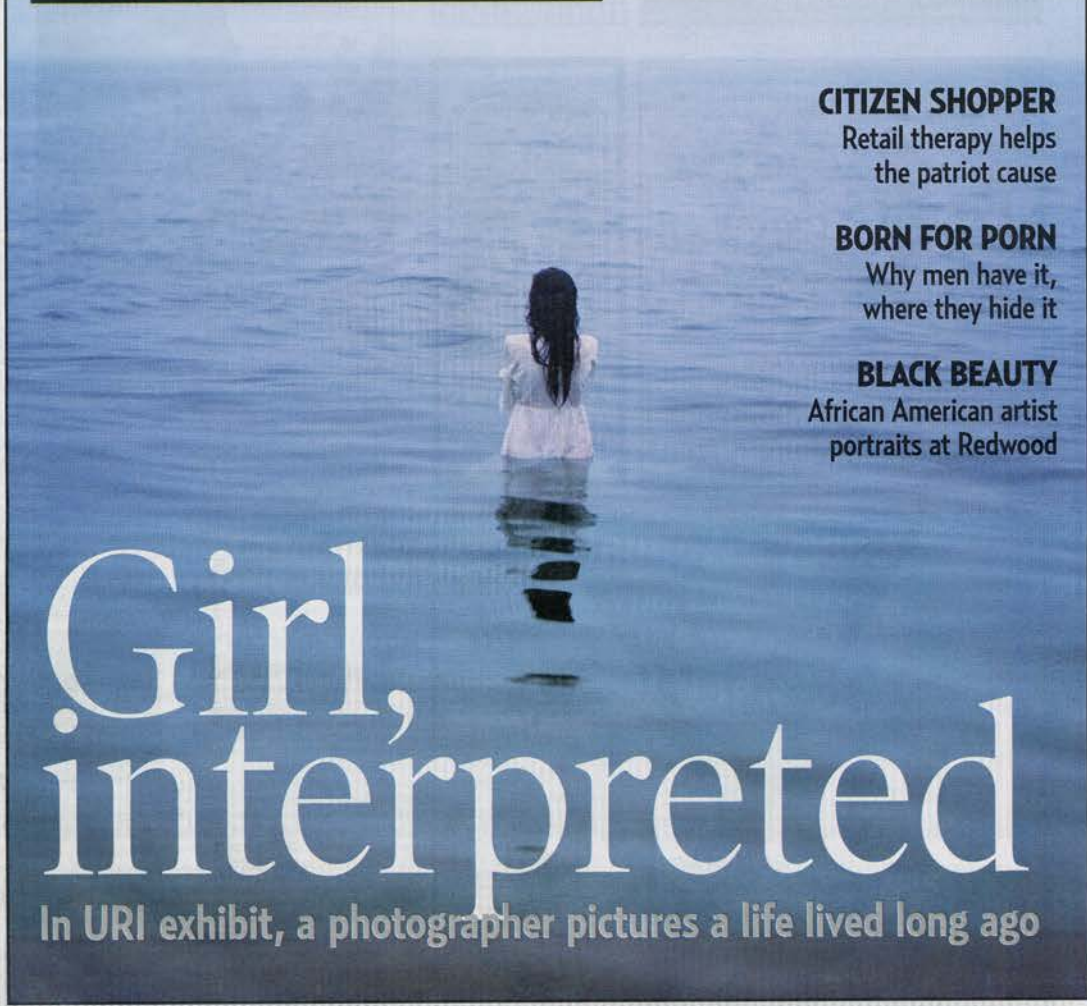


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In URI exhibit, a photographer pictures a life lived long ago

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"Dress," 2005, 20" x 24"



"Dressing," 2005, 20" x 40"

Girl, interpreted

A PHOTOGRAPHER STUDIES A LIFE LIVED LONG AGO

'THE GIRL OF MY DREAMS'
Stacy Rome Morrison Jan. 30 through March 15
Photography Gallery, Fine Arts Center
University of Rhode Island, Kingston
(401) 851-9638
www.uri.edu/fineartscenter

BY LISA VITANO BRADALI
In "The Girl of My Dreams," Stacy Rome Morrison's ongoing exhibit at the University of Rhode Island's Photography Gallery, the artist has carefully pieced together the life of Sylvia DeWitt (1841-1925). DeWitt was an outcast, a young girl who lived with an elderly aunt on a street in Soho, Manhattan. Morrison found a trail of evidence that led her first to the owner's identity and then deep into Sylvia's life.

Though her detailed investigations and painstaking research, the 32-year-old Morrison, in, has created an exhibit that transcends the 122 years that separate her date of birth from her subject's. And although Morrison never technically knew Sylvia, she has reconstructed her in exquisite detail, so that we too may know her.



"Sylvia," 2005, 20" x 40"



"White and White Paper Doll Dress," 2004, 8" x 12"



"Pink Paper Doll Dress #2," 2004, 8" x 12"



"Pink Paper Doll Dress #1," 2004, 8" x 12"

Morrison photographed the items in Sylvia's discarded trunk on black velvet.

Her first trip was in 2003, but Morrison said it was a "total epiphany."
"It was I think like this was my introduction to her, as if I would meet her. That I didn't find out very much and I wondered if I was going to have to continue her."

One of the impediments to finding her remains, Morrison encountered was the general lack of references to Sylvia in historical documents—a search which Morrison, who is currently a haberdashery designer, found while completing a masters in photography at New York University in 2006, was well equipped. Morrison, however, did not give up her search and eventually found Sylvia DeWitt's identity through a neighborhood.



"Sylvia Through the Clouds," 2005, 40" x 40"

PHOTOGRAPH BY STACY ROME MORRISON