

## “Through the Looking Glass....”

Local St. Louisan and photographer **Romaine Orthwein** has been following, for the last decade, a circuitous path that began and ended in New York City. After leaving NYU, where she studied acting at Tisch, for the bright lights of Los Angeles and a career in film production, Romaine found herself drawn into a field that combined elements of her love for theater, film and photography: shooting film stills for major motion pictures. The staged quality of her work then has only developed even further as her photographs have evolved over the years into the realm of fine art photography.

Romaine has returned to New York to get her masters degree in fine art photography at the School of Visual Arts and to work with acclaimed photographer **Gregory Crewdson** of Yale University's photography program.

Her latest body of work, “Looking Glass,” has just been exhibited in a solo show at the Miller/Geisler Gallery in Chelsea, and it received great attention for its eerily

detached quality. Romaine digitally inserts herself into photographs she has shot of vivid and rich private homes, and it is this feeling of surreal displacement that is so striking. There is a sense of wanting to belong, yet not belonging, that is haunting, as her image is incorporated into each vignette. These very staged and filmic narratives echo the film stills she once shot and are reminiscent of photographers like Cindy Sherman and Lauren Greenfield.

Romaine is quietly building a name for herself in the New York art scene. She was recently featured in *Women's Wear Daily* and the current issue of *W Magazine*.

