

### Go inside the judges' minds

WE'VE HEARD IT TIME AND time again about photo contests. "What gets the edge is not only what's creative, but also has an element of originality to it." This comment by John Stevenson, owner of the John Stevenson Gallery in New York ([www.johnstevenson-gallery.com](http://www.johnstevenson-gallery.com)), applies to even a fine-art-heavy contest like Soho Photo Gallery's Alternative Processes Competition.

Stevenson reviewed close to 600 entries from across the U.S. in this



**LADDER CO. NUMBER ONE:** Mary Daniel Hobson's *Mythology 5/5* from "*Mapping The Body*" was "striking" and "memorable," said juror John Stevenson.

year's contest, from tintypes to photogravures, kallitypes to Polaroid transfers (silver prints, C-prints, and digital files weren't eligible for the competition). The winners would appear in an exhibition at the New York-based gallery ([www.soho-photo.com](http://www.soho-photo.com)). "Originality was important," Stevenson said. But he had to curate for a show as well as judge for technical and artistic merit. "I was thinking in terms of the balance of the exhibit, so I wanted to avoid repetition." Mary Daniel Hobson's Kodalith collage had a multidimensional aspect that ultimately swayed him and rounded out the group show. "It's always a function of what else is being judged," Stevenson says.

—Teresa Ha