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Two shows at The Light Factory evince sense of place

Tuesday, May 4th, 2010

The arrival of sultry weather is a sure sign that it's time to head over to [The Light Factory](#) for the *Members Show* and the *Annuale*. This is the third year that these shows — one egalitarian, the other selective — have been paired.

For the *Annuale*, entries are accepted from photographers worldwide, but the exhibition's jurors so far have come from Southern institutions — [Julian Cox](#), curator of photography at Atlanta's [High Museum of Art](#) (2008), [Trevor Schoonmaker](#), curator of contemporary art at Duke University's [Nasher Museum of Art](#) (2009) and now [Alex Nyerges](#), director of the [Virginia Museum of Fine Arts](#). But even with this run of Southern jurors, everyone involved was still a bit shocked — in a good way — by this year's results: Although entries came from as far away as Paris, five of the winning artists are from the South. (For those of you not familiar with juried exhibitions, the juror typically makes a selection only from digital images and is provided little or no information about who submitted them.)

The Light Factory's Third Juried *Annuale* features [Nicholas Dantona](#), Franklin, Tenn.; [John Grant](#), Charlottesville, Va.; [Diana Greene](#), Winston-Salem; [Aspen Hochhalter](#), Charlotte; [Blue Mitchell](#), Portland, Ore.; and [Lori Vrba](#), Chapel Hill.



Lori Vrba, "Best Friends." All images courtesy The Light Factory.

Their work ranges from the traditional — Vrba still prints in the darkroom and Greene's photographs harken back to Edward Weston — to the experimental — Mitchell (characterized by TLF's Chief Curator Dennis Kiel as "our lone representative of all states west of Tennessee") has taken a process called acrylic lift and modified it by adding a digital component.

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