



Art of the Body: Curated by Stacie Bird

—for the [Art of the Body exhibit](#) at the Art Alliance of Central Pennsylvania Downtown Gallery, June 7-30, 2019 (various artists & mediums) curated by Stacie Bird

1.

What are we making? With just [an invitation to](#).
A dance. Or a cool ripping of blades
slicing cursive into ice. There are so many shades
of makeup to dot i's with. Colors
of B's to tie into hair. A's drawn from diaphragm
to rhyme with guitar. What rises from strokes? Ink
written into skin. An asterisk
pierced into a nose. An O
sewn to the button. Of a belly.

2.

We've come to see. *They're not often seen
as artists*, Stacie says. What can be seen is framed,
arranged. *I thought there would be real people*,
one says. The people doing the seeing
look. The tattooist in the photo
wearing tattoos instead of a shirt walks in
with a shirt on. Ink slipping long
past his short sleeves. *A costume*,
he tells the questioning man,
*that I never take off, unlike a rock star
whose costume is for the stage*. A picture
is taken of his picture and him
standing before it.
It's always the second shot,
the fellow artist beside him says, *that [ends up the one](#)*.