

THE GLOBE AND MAIL 



PECS AND PIZZA DOUGH

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Chris Curreri at Daniel Faria Gallery

Until Jan. 7, 188 St. Helen's Ave., Toronto; danielfariagallery.com

Beside Myself, Toronto-based photo-conceptualist Chris Curreri's latest exhibition, at the new Daniel Faria Gallery, could be described as un-porn, backward erotica.

A simple but jolting juxtaposition is at work here. First, a male torso, one with the build of a superhero, is photographed from the waist up in various body-builder poses. The light plays on the model's pectorals and biceps, highlight both the lines of the muscles and the delineations of flesh.

The other half of the equation, however, is the model's head, which Curreri has photographed covered with a thick, rubbery layer of pizza dough. The meeting of these two forms of depiction – one hyper real, the other abstracted and estranged – creates a profound disconnect.

The viewer soon forgets the ogle-worthy physique and instead searches the obscured face for wholly unavailable detail. The gaze is directed away from the desirable object, the body, toward a very different (yet equally unattainable) goal – the veiled (doughed?) face.

Then again, since all erotica/pornography (I make no distinction, considering one simply the middle class version of the other) sells the desired but distant, perhaps Curreri has created a kind of archetypal, assembly-required erotica – one that obscures the seductive object while dangling same before the eyes.

Relational aesthetics meets P90X – can a pinup calendar be far off?

-Vaughan, R. M. "Pecs and Pizza Dough," *Globe and Mail*, Friday December 2, 2011