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POETRY | SPRING 2018

## Anatomy in Nature

By Jesse Holth

Today I'm learning  
a new lesson—how

plants can look just  
like organs, the part

of our bodies we know  
and don't know (unless

they're cut open). Let's  
take first the heart and

lungs, the beat and breathe  
of life—or a water lemon,

*Passiflora laurifolia* so like  
a human liver, at least in

some old illustrations I've  
seen. How frond and fern

can be phalanges, just as  
reaching, branching out.

The same veins, a pump,  
valves of the heart some

undersea anemone. Aorta  
and arteries, capillaries or

ribcage—a nest to protect,  
twig-like (firm, but able to

snap). The skull is a nutshell  
to crack open, sulci and gyri

waiting. A delicate ear canal  
like ciliate cells, cacti spines

a spinal column, vertebrae  
stacked. All this to say, we

hold a mirror to nature,  
and see ourselves.

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**Jesse Holth is a freelance writer, editor, and poet. Based in the Pacific Northwest, she writes about health, wellness, and the natural world. Her writing has been featured in over half a dozen international publications, and her poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in Marathon Literary Review, Canada Quarterly, Silver Birch Press, Mantra Review, Barzakh Magazine, the University of Regina Press, and others. She was a 2017 Pen 2 Paper poetry finalist, and is currently working on two full-length collections.**

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