



GIANNA

DISPENZA

NAKED LIGHT

FEBRUARY 2023

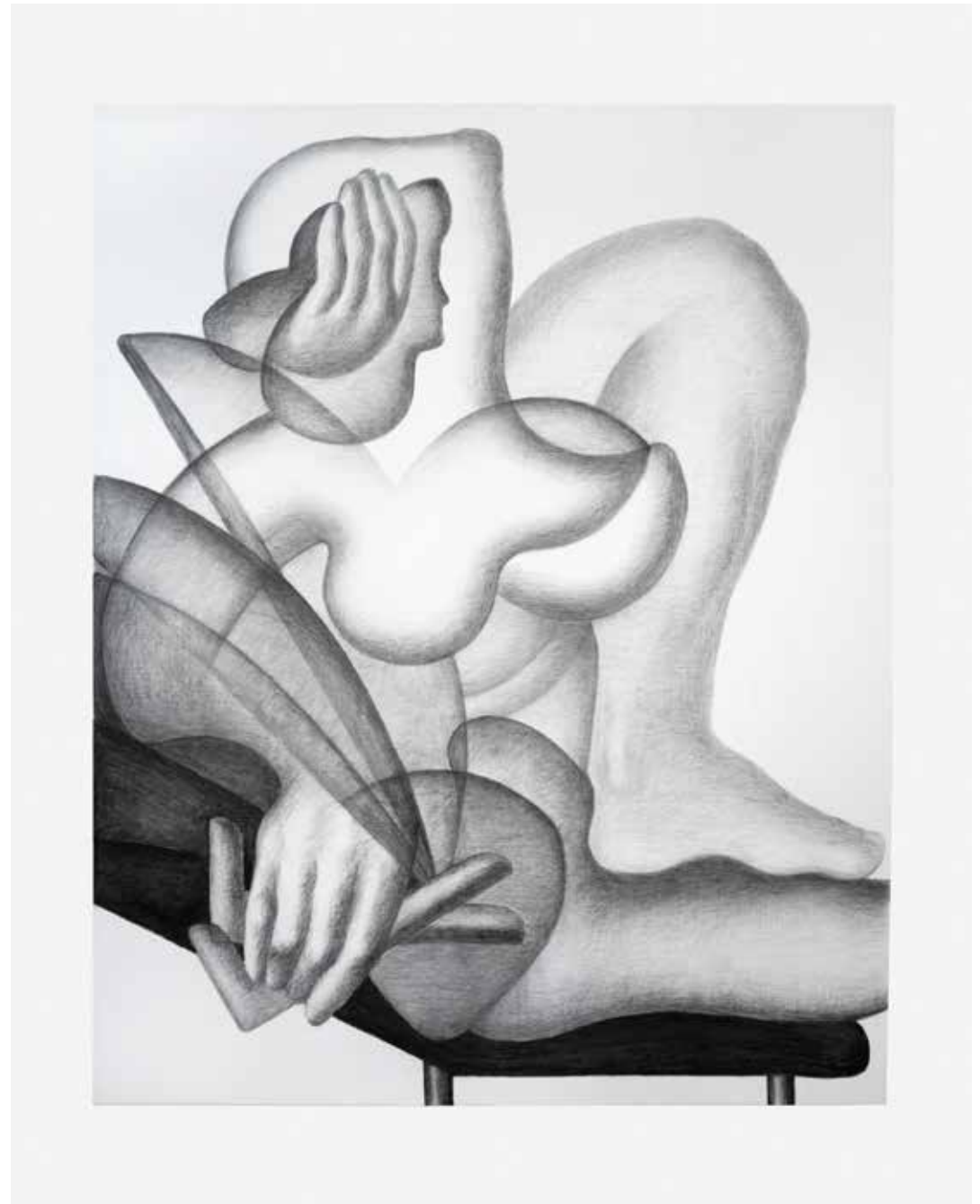
FOUR YOU
Gallery

NAKED LIGHT

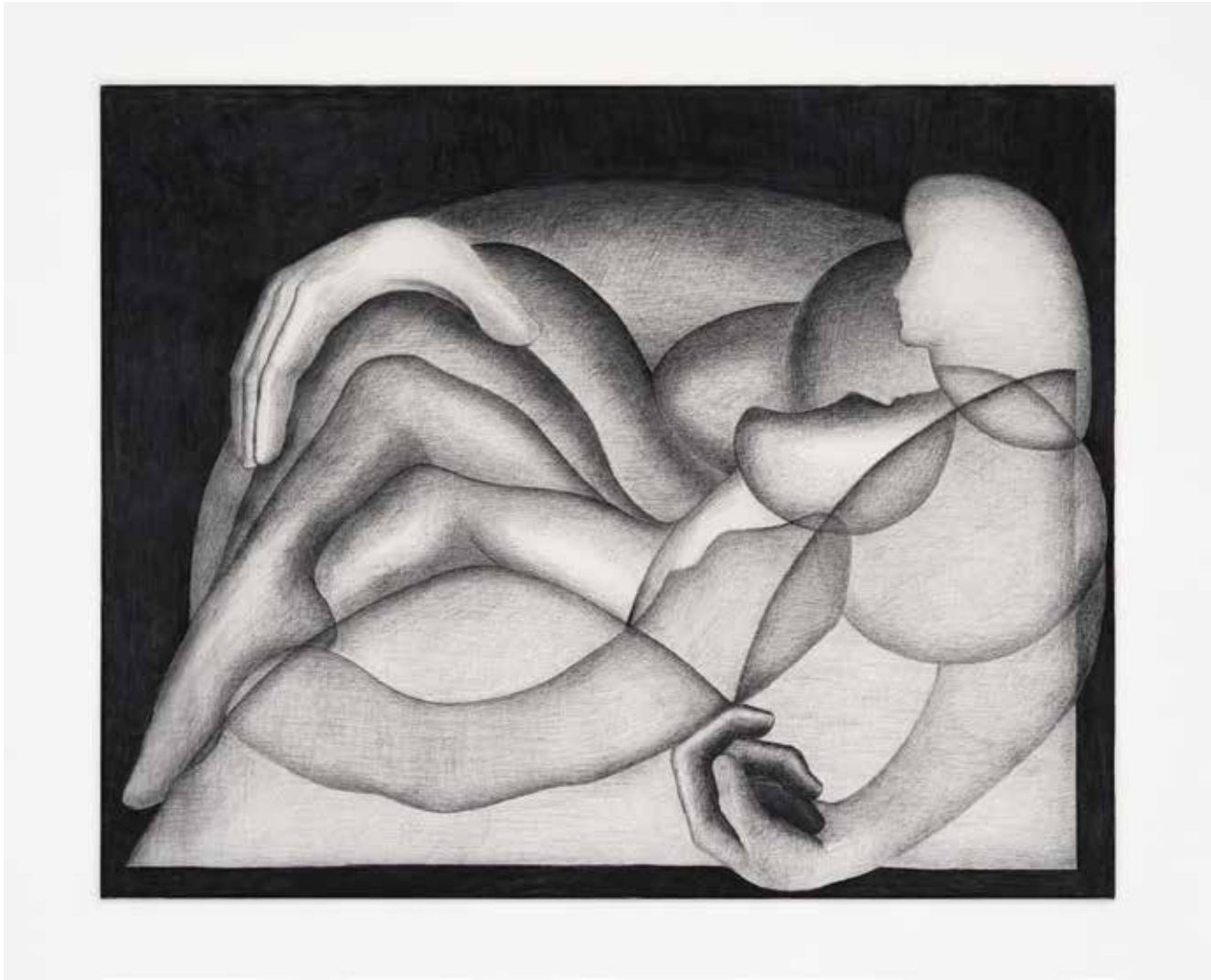
The title of this exhibition by Gianna Dispenza emerged while making the artworks that feature. A warning with this exact notice came into view upon a hanging sign in the car park where Dispenza was spraying her forthcoming charcoal works with a flammable fixative. The 'Naked Light,' Dispenza acknowledges with some hesitation, could have incinerated her, unifying the artworks with her own being: "I'd have become charcoal too, like all of the pieces."

Demonstrated here to some extent, charcoal as a medium is indicative of mortality. Its transient quality, so sensitive to touch, makes charcoal reminiscent of that which is fleeting. Dispenza is skilled in her manipulation of the material, using it both to depict ephemeral shadows and the shapes of feminine forms. The medium and the concept of the artwork itself are so acutely intertwined, each one informing and making sense of the other, even down to the science. Dispenza explains: "Charcoal has a similar property to a naked light. It will combust when it's mixed with potassium nitrate and sulphur (that's gunpowder) and when it's activated, it purifies." Whilst the chemistry and properties of charcoal are part of the presentation, the audience is also confronted with an unapologetic illustration of the female nude: a familiar image, long examined in art history.

'Naked Light' presents a body of work that began as a series of questions. The artist asked herself "what has been repeatedly reinforced or overlooked in depictions of the 'seated' or 'reclining' woman?" The deeper Dispenza studied nudes by Manet, Ingres, Rubens and others, the clearer the vacancies in history's narrative became—women and their bodily functions have been erased or overlooked not only in artistic depictions of the female form, but also in history, medicine, economics and so much more. By illustrating certain authentic functions of the female body, like breastmilk, birth, and the reproductive system, Dispenza's 'Naked Light' shifts the conversation from the "male gaze" to the "real body" therein moving emphasis away from the commonly eroticized experience of artist-viewing-sitter to a holistic experience of the sitter herself.



Sitter, La-Z Boy, 2022
Charcoal on canvas
152.5 x 122 cm



Reclining Woman (1), 2022

Charcoal on canvas

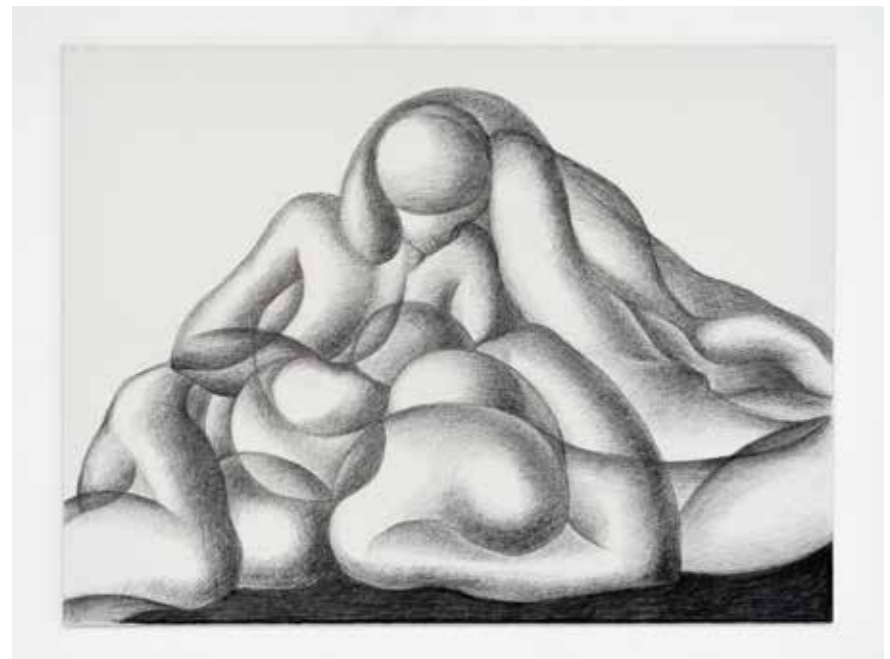
122 x 152.5 cm



Sitter, River, 2022
Charcoal on canvas
152.5 x 122 cm



Reclining Woman, Egg, 2022
Charcoal on canvas
76 x 101 cm



Reclining Women, 2022
Charcoal on canvas
76 x 101 cm



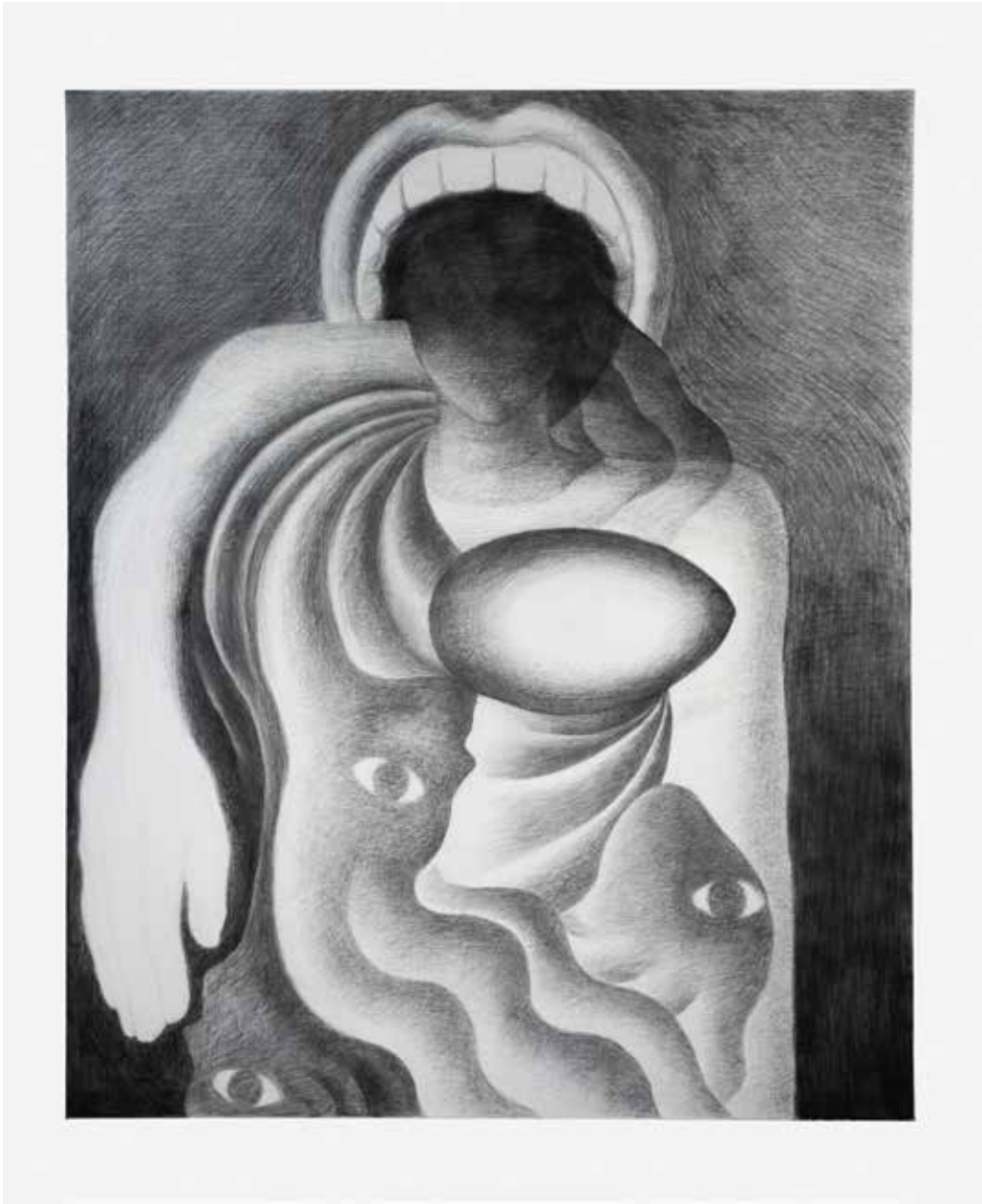
Sitter (9), 2022
Charcoal on canvas
152.5 x 122 cm



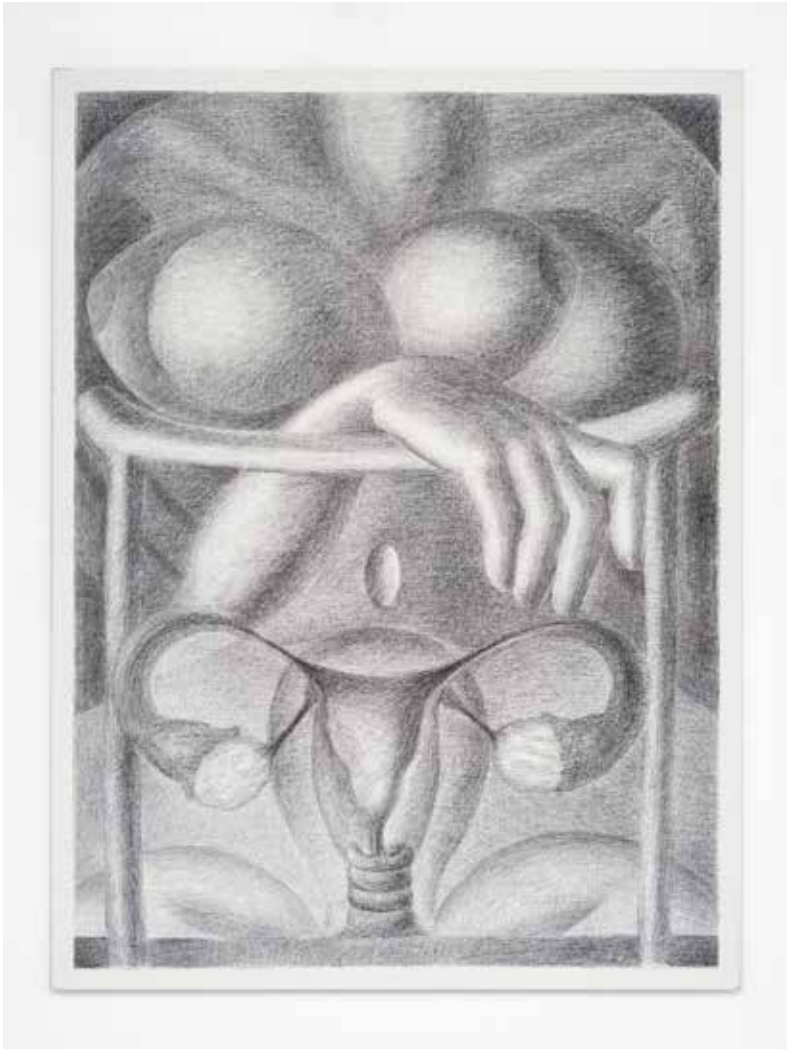
Reclining Woman (2), 2022
Charcoal on canvas
122 x 152.5 cm



Sitter (10), 2022
Charcoal on canvas
200 x 150 cm



Sitter, Molt, 2023
Charcoal on canvas
142 x 117 cm



Sitter, Uterus, 2022
Charcoal on canvas
101 x 76 cm



Reclining Woman, Rest, 2022
Charcoal on canvas
101 x 76 cm



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gianna Dispenza (b. 1990 Washington State, USA) is an artist living and working in London. In 2014, Dispenza graduated from the San Francisco Art Institute with a BFA in Sculpture. She later gained an MA in Painting from the Royal College of Art, graduating in 2020. The artists' work has been exhibited extensively across Europe since her undergraduate, as well as in the USA, Korea, and Lebanon. Notably, Dispenza's artworks have been shown in the renowned Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

More recent solo shows include 'Soft Blots Beneath the Sun,' Charles Moffett Gallery, NY (2022), 'The Sitter,' Natasha Arselan Gallery, London (2022), 'Residency One,' Galleria Ramo, Italy (2021) and 'Overcome by Joy,' Charles Moffett Gallery, NY (2021). Dispenza is also currently exhibiting in group shows in Milan, St. Moritz and Como, and she is working on a public sculpture for the city of Ede, in the Netherlands. The artist's great talent and success has also been recognised with multiple awards and residencies including Beirut Art Residency with Darryl Westly (2017), and a residency at Galleria Ramo in Como, Italy (2021). Dispenza was also a finalist for the Bridgeman Studio Award: The Art of Diversity in 2020.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

In an attempt to transpose the gender inequality that continues to persist in the art world, Four You gallery exclusively showcases the work of female artists. Four You Gallery is a travel venue-by-appointment that showcases contemporary art. It offers female artists a global audience, whilst allowing art enthusiasts to discover thoughtfully curated artworks produced by international talents.

Apparent is the lack of representation of female artists in galleries, as well as the exclusion of women from the mainstream art market. Four You gallery intends to provide a platform for the overlooked; offering a space that encourages cross-discipline dialogue led solely by women aiming to inflict change. Dedicated to the artist and regardless of their nationality, medium, or career-status, Four You Gallery hopes to celebrate, support and empower.

Curated for you – whether a casual enthusiast or passionate collector – we carefully select artists with distinct and bold styles. We wish to captivate and inspire, by casting the spotlight on stimulating women in art.

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Gallery

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