

## ARTIST STATEMENT: NAOMI BEESEN

My work is comprised of two kinds of paintings that overlap to form an ensemble: the abstract work and the figurative representations.

The nonrepresentational forms are meant to depict sensation and physicality. Their organic shapes and color constructions just barely evade direct recognition as specific body parts--instead of literal descriptions, they are body impressions, fluid and obscure estimations of motion and sensuality. Their ambiguity matches the mute and graceful incoherence of the corporeal world. They are a sort of topographical mapping of the place where matter and flesh meet to form sensation and energy. Interior rhythms and exterior movement become indistinguishable from limbs and breasts. The mostly large scale of this work is to invoke an atmospheric emotional environment.

This big scale echoes into the figurative works, where the disconnected abstract forms coalesce into whole women. As bold, oversized figures, they were made in dialogue with and direct rebellion against the Western art historical tradition of the demure reclining female nude. They are sprawling and loose, composed of discordant lines and planes to indicate interior complexity. These grandiose portraits have personal significance; they originate as indistinct characters out of my own imaginative mythology, and often stand for the opposing states of solitude and intimate relationship. However, they also reference a more general female archetype, embodying a sort of goddess-like iconography in their mass, colossal presence and power.

My working method is intuitive and unplanned, often based on the layering of paint, in an attempt to capture direct modes of expression as well as a pure translation of my subconscious into a visual language. This body of work is intended as an affirmation of a messy human physicality and an alignment with nature--body, sex, pain and harmony, and a nonlinear sensory experience. It arose in reaction to the hard-edged, technological and artificial commercialism that dominates our contemporary aesthetic reality