

Lawrence Ferlinghetti
Études

August 27th – October 2nd, 2020

--

New Release is pleased and honored to present *Études*, a solo exhibition of works by Lawrence Ferlinghetti. Ferlinghetti (b. March 24, 1919) is an acclaimed poet, painter, activist, and the co-founder of City Lights Booksellers & Publishers in San Francisco. While Ferlinghetti has been painting for over six decades, this is his first solo exhibition in New York City.

Études will include Ferlinghetti's works on paper and paintings from the 1980s to present day. The small selection of works has been chosen to represent the knowledge, care and passion Ferlinghetti has given to poetry, writing, mythology and history.

In a painting titled *The Young Yeats (2008)*, Ferlinghetti has created a sorrowed Yeats portrait reminiscent of a blue period Picasso with the words *Maud Gonne gone* written on his chest. Gonne, an Irish suffragette and actress, was said to be a muse of Yeats.

"...Why should I blame her that she filled my days
With misery, or that she would of late
Have taught to ignorant men most violent ways
Or hurled the little streets upon the great."

Gonne played a part in many of Yeats poems embodying famous female literary figures such as Deirdre, Leda and Helen of Troy. Seventeen years prior to *The Young Yeats* painting, Ferlinghetti created a work on paper titled *Leda and the Swan* (1991), also in the exhibition.

Icarus, Karl Marx, Orestes, Freud, Clytemnestra and some "Unrelenting Destinies" also make appearances in *Études*, just a spark of the vast "strains of unpremeditated art" that Ferlinghetti holds at a mere century.

In Goya's Greatest Scenes We Seem to See . . .

By Lawrence Ferlinghetti

In Goya's greatest scenes we seem to see

the people of the world

exactly at the moment when

they first attained the title of

'suffering humanity'

They writhe upon the page

in a veritable rage

of adversity

Heaped up

groaning with babies and bayonets

under cement skies

in an abstract landscape of blasted trees

bent statues bats wings and beaks

slippery gibbets

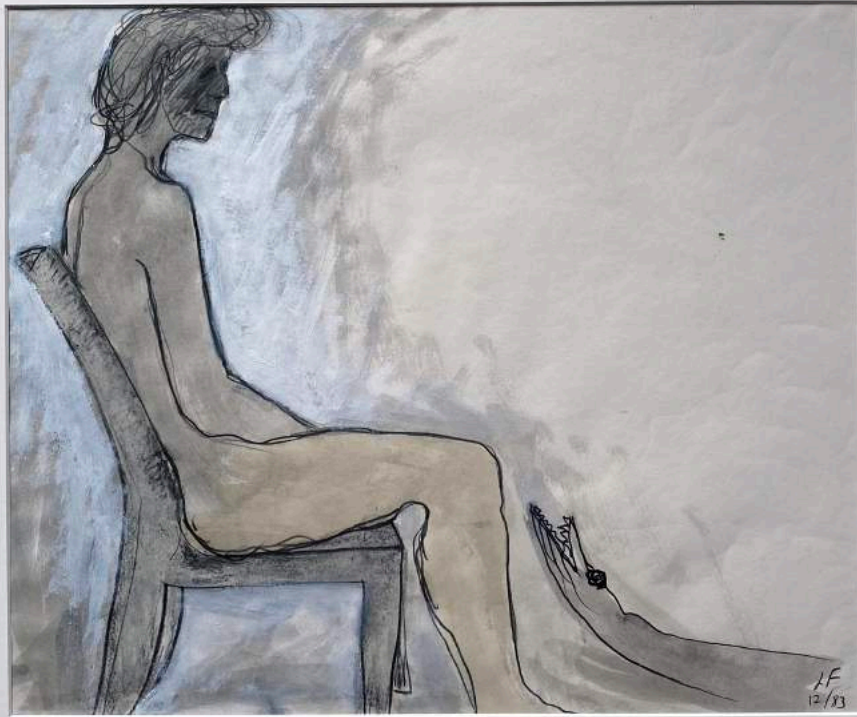
cadavers and carnivorous cocks

and all the final hollering monsters

of the

'imagination of disaster'

they are so bloody real
it is as if they really still existed
And they do
Only the landscape is changed
They still are ranged along the roads
plagued by legionnaires
false windmills and demented roosters
They are the same people
only further from home
on freeways fifty lanes wide
on a concrete continent
spaced with bland billboards
illustrating imbecile illusions of happiness
The scene shows fewer tumbrils
but more strung-out citizens
in painted cars
and they have strange license plates
and engines
that devour America
from *A Coney Island of the Mind*, 1958



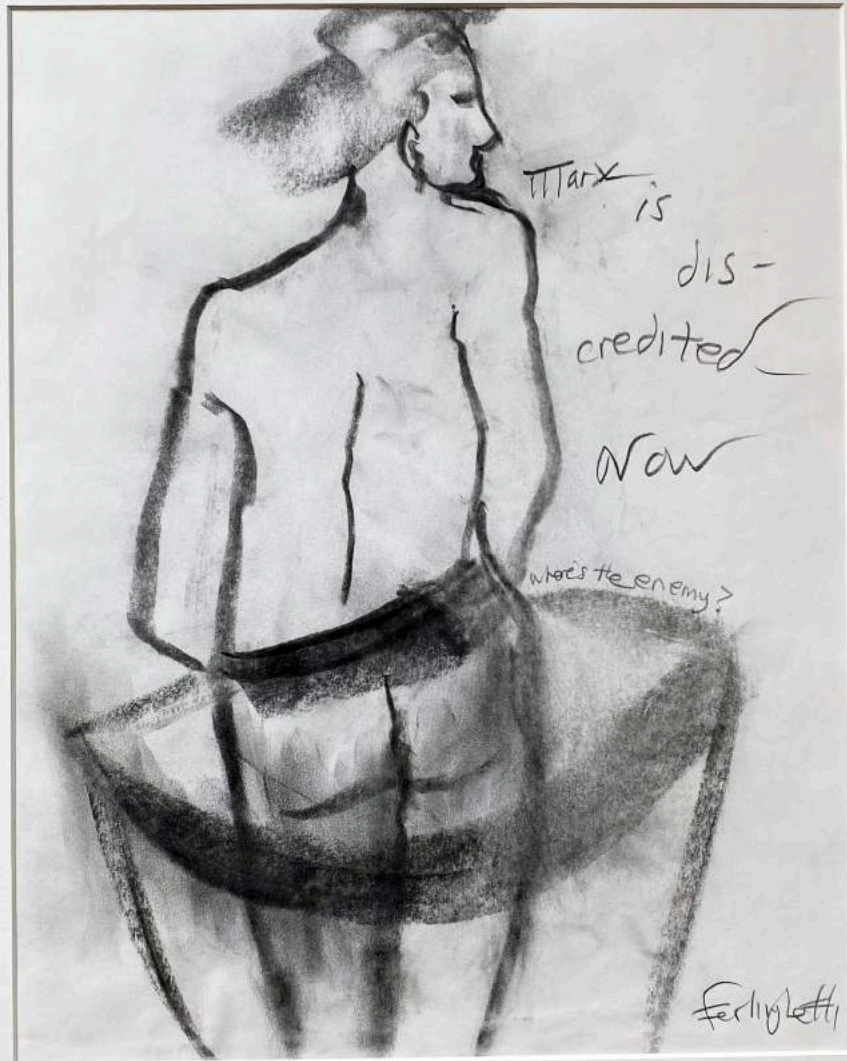
Seated Figure

15" x 18"

21 1/2" x 24" matted

Graphite, charcoal, acrylic, black marker on paper

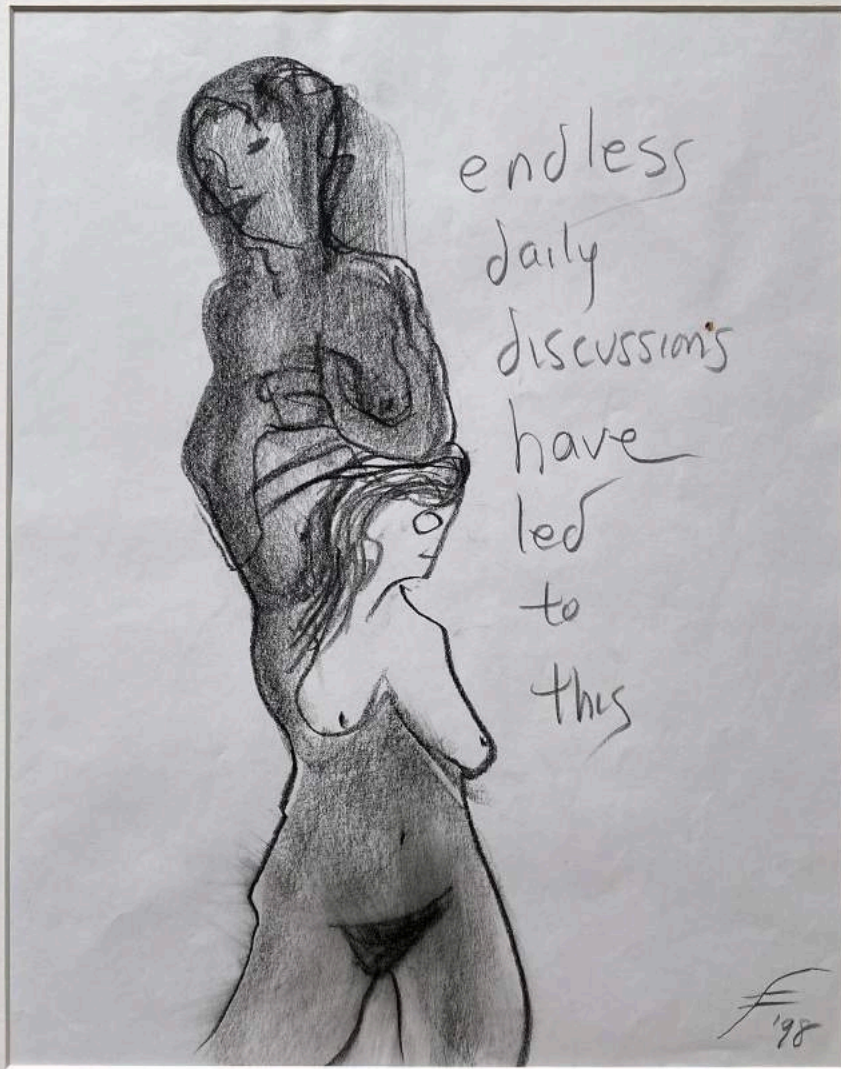
1983



Marx is discredited now...
17" x 13 1/2"
22 1/2" x 18 1/2" matted
Charcoal, graphite on paper
1999



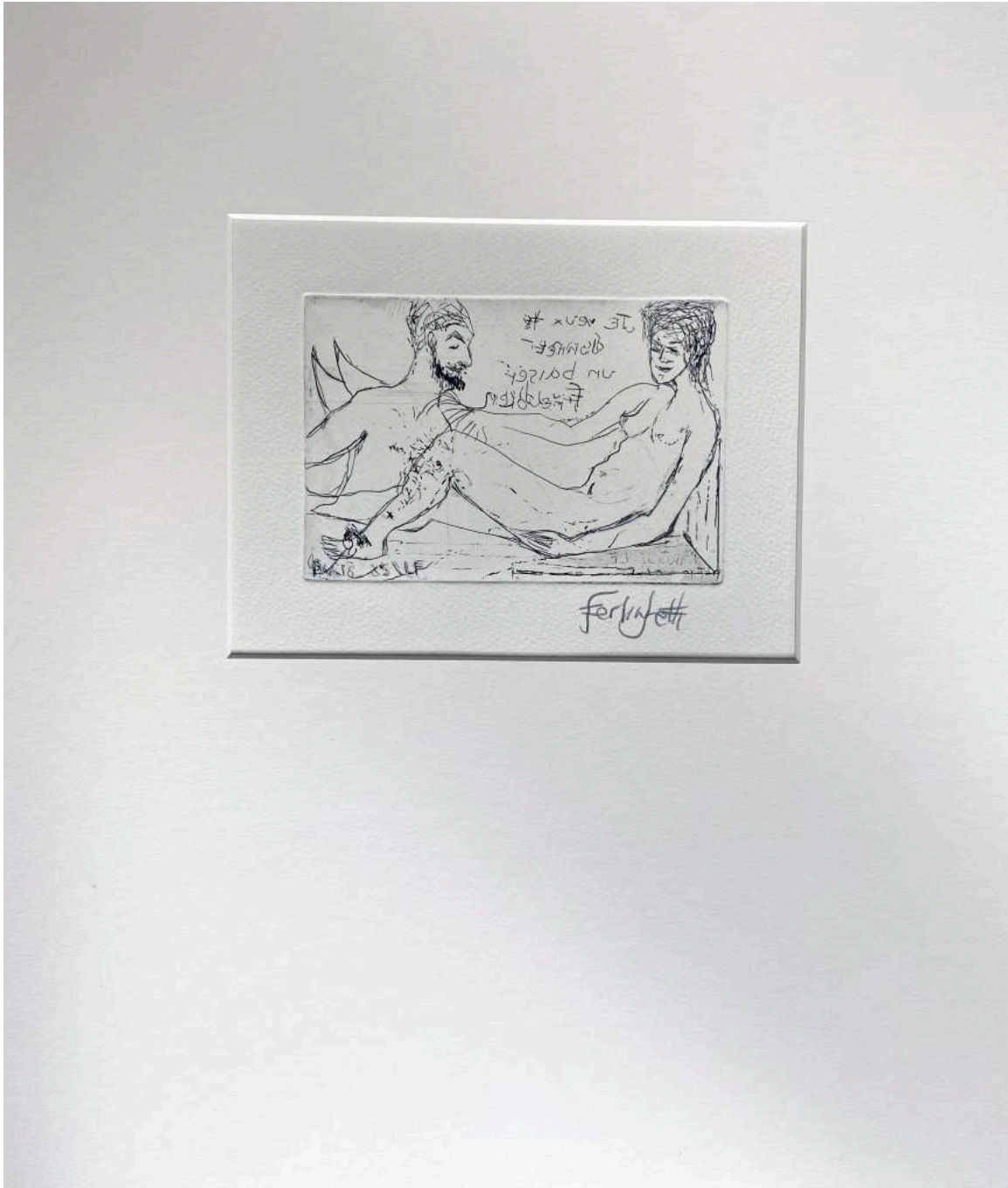
The Tiger Within...
17" x 13 1/2"
22 1/2" x 18 1/2" matted
Conte crayon, pentel, wash on paper
1994



Endless daily discussions have led to this
17" x 13 ½"
22 ½" x 18 ½" matted
Conte crayon, charcoal on paper
1998



Icarus Blind
22 ½" x 19"
29" x 24 ½" matted
Acrylic, wash on paper
1989



Freudian Kiss

4" x 5 3/4"

16 1/2" x 14" matted

Etching: ink on paper

AP 2/2 / Plate done in 1985 in Paris; printed 1992 by Howard Munson



Two Parisian Models

2 ¼" x 3 ½"

12" x 12 ½" matted

Lithograph printed with blue ink on paper

8/25



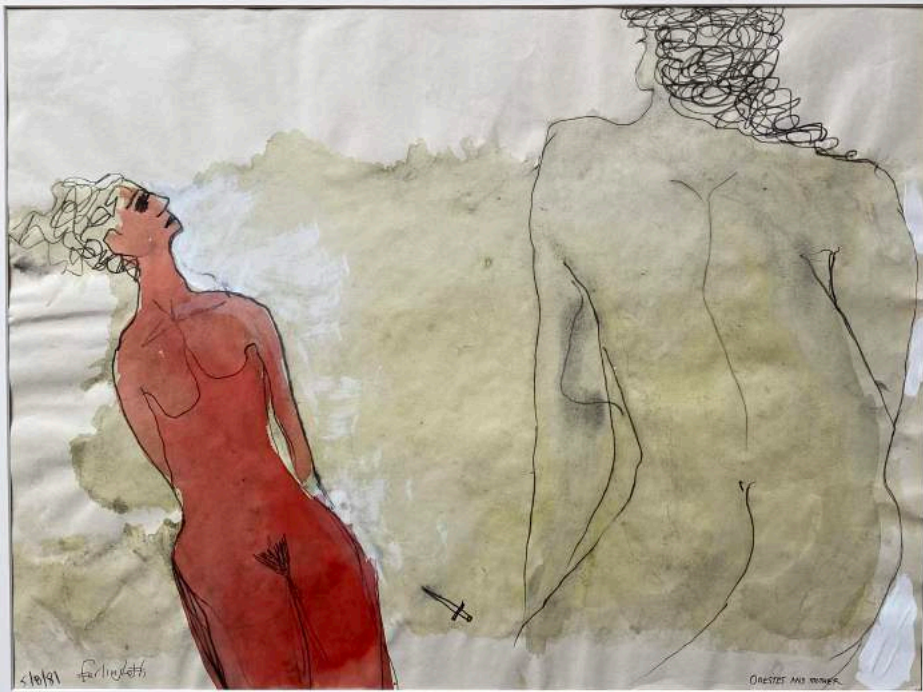
Two Parisian Models

2 ¼" x 3 ½"

12" x 12 ½" matted

Lithograph printed with brown ink on paper

4/25



Orestes and Mother

18" x 24"

24" x 30" matted

Charcoal, acrylic, wash on paper

1981



Greek Warrior (In the Baths...)
18" x 24"
24" x 30" matted
Conte, ink, wash on paper
1981



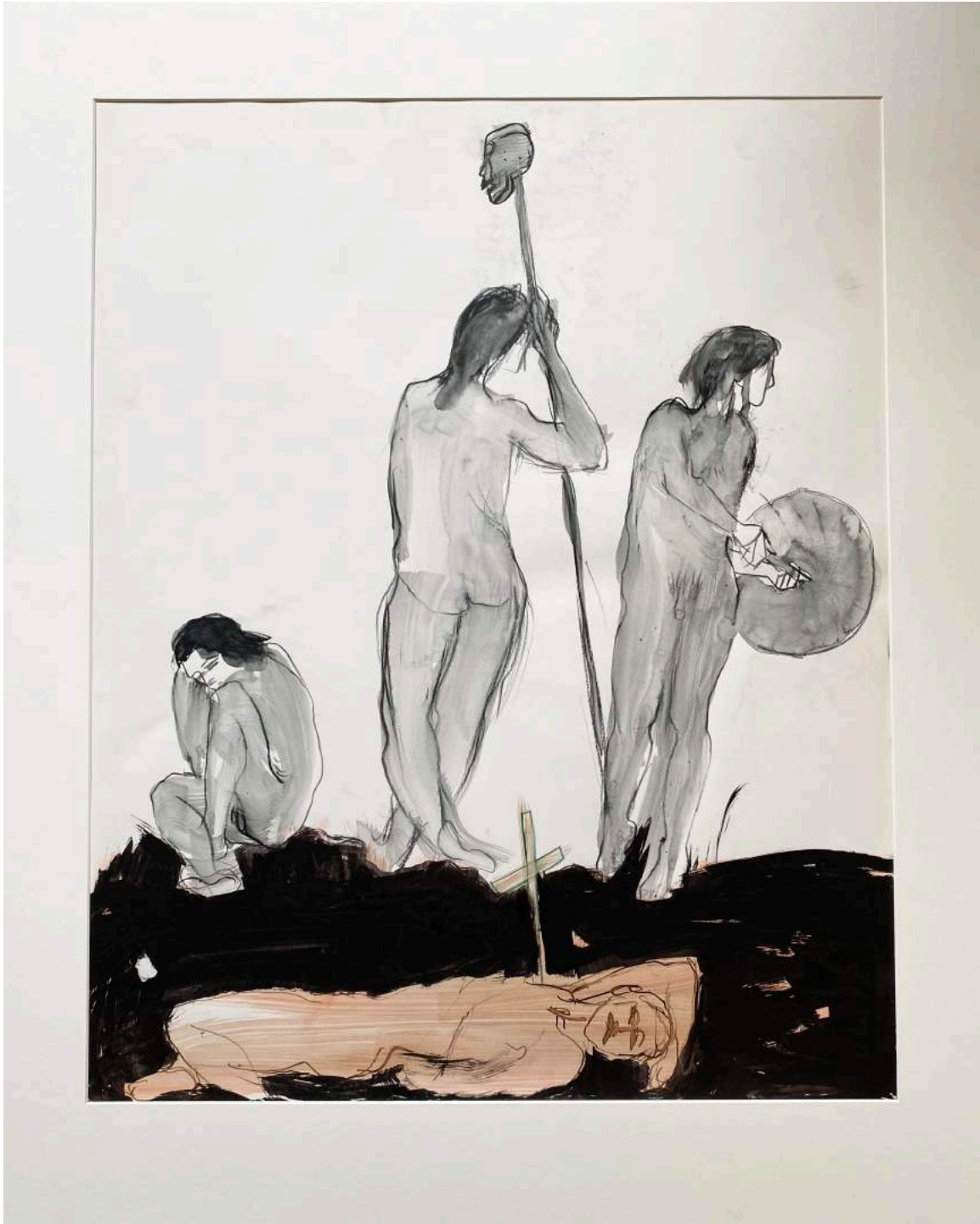
The Night Before Thinking

23 ³/₄" x 18"

30" x 24" matted

Oil paint and black conte stick on paper

1990



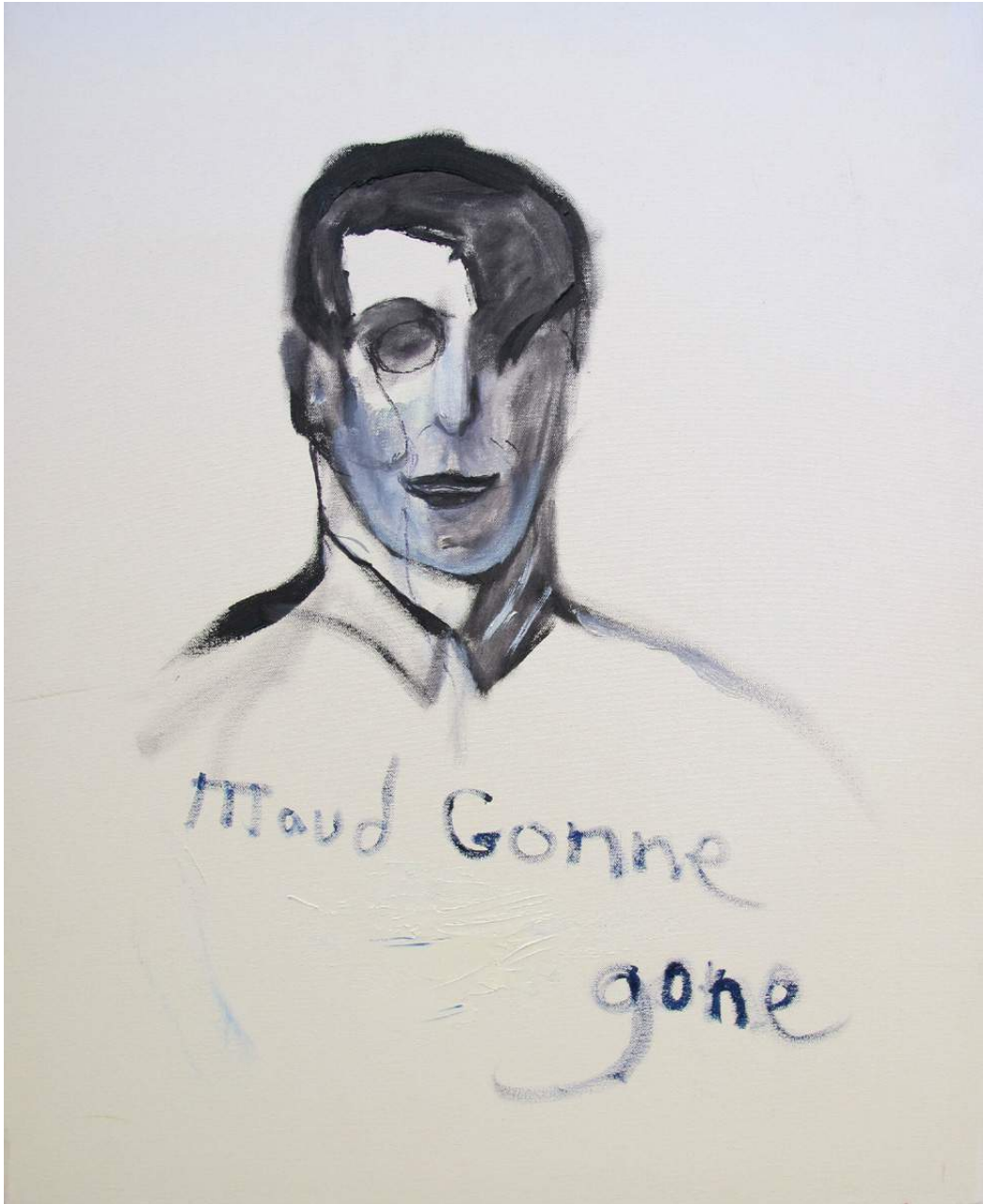
Those Unrelenting Destinies
29" x 22 1/2"
34 1/2" x 28" matted
Conte, colored pencil, acrylic, wash on paper
1983



Leda No. 1
21 ³/₄" x 31 ¹/₄"
28" x 37" matted
Oil based pigments, acrylic on paper
1991



Dreamboat
30" x 40"
Oil and acrylic on canvas
2006



The Young Yeats
30" x 24"
Oil on canvas
2008