



LESLEY FOWLER

CHANGE ROOM

this knowledge has eluded me

till now

a woman's mystery

with no initiation rites

but here our bodies

are revealed

for us to see

lines of women freed

from the impressionists' mark

water spilling from an arc

of muscle from ageing thighs

clotted with fat

young girls stare straight

at me driven beyond

any curb of courtesy

to gaze

at thickets of hair

a fold of labia

as I bend

making a female geography

a map from which

to validate the territory

of themselves