

Karla Strambini

THE VENUS OF WILLENDORF

Two large maternal breasts rest heavily
on her high protruding belly.
Her extremities are lost
as the mirrored surface of the tap bends
and distorts
but not so much that I cannot recognize
my own reflection.
I look like the fertility goddess
in my mother's copy of
Art Treasures of the World.
The Venus of Willendorf
doesn't have any feet either.
With her excessively heavy breasts and abdomen
she was probably a charm to ensure fertility.
My figure does not evoke the same
happy connotations as in prehistoric times.
How is it that in merely imitating
my own palaeolithic proportions
the Venus becomes an art treasure
while the model bathes behind closed doors?
Perhaps I need to go to Willendorf
to share my bath.