

# On My Reading List... LISA YUSKAVAGE



The American figurative painter of hyperreal nudes, whose images wittily play with society's view of female sexuality, reveals the books that have inspired her...

**WHICH WAS THE LAST BOOK YOU RECOMMENDED TO YOUR FRIENDS?**

*Wave* by Sonali Deraniyagala. While reading it, there were times I would find myself openly weeping on the New York subway going to my studio.

**WHICH BOOK DO YOU RE-READ?** I read and listened to *Wave* three times.

Sonali's inner voice is one I love and feel privileged to have spent time with. And I now know that asking a stranger on an airplane a seemingly benign question like, "Are you going to visit your family?" can potentially slay them.

**WHICH BOOK MAKES YOU LAUGH?**

*War and Peace* by Tolstoy. The parlor scenes are full of snarky people looking past someone who is trying to talk to them to find a more important person in the room — it is exactly what happens at art openings.

**THE WORLD'S SEXIEST BOOK IS...**

*My Secret Garden: Women's Sexual Fantasies* by Nancy Friday. A friend gave it to me when I was 19 and I could not believe how raunchy women's minds could be. The truth is stranger than fiction and quite an inspiration to my locked-down, Catholic brain.

**WHAT ARE YOU READING NOW?** *1Q84* by Haruki Murakami. I've never read him before and had no expectations, but I am enjoying it.

*Yuskavage is showing at David Zwirner New York in May, davidzwirner.com*