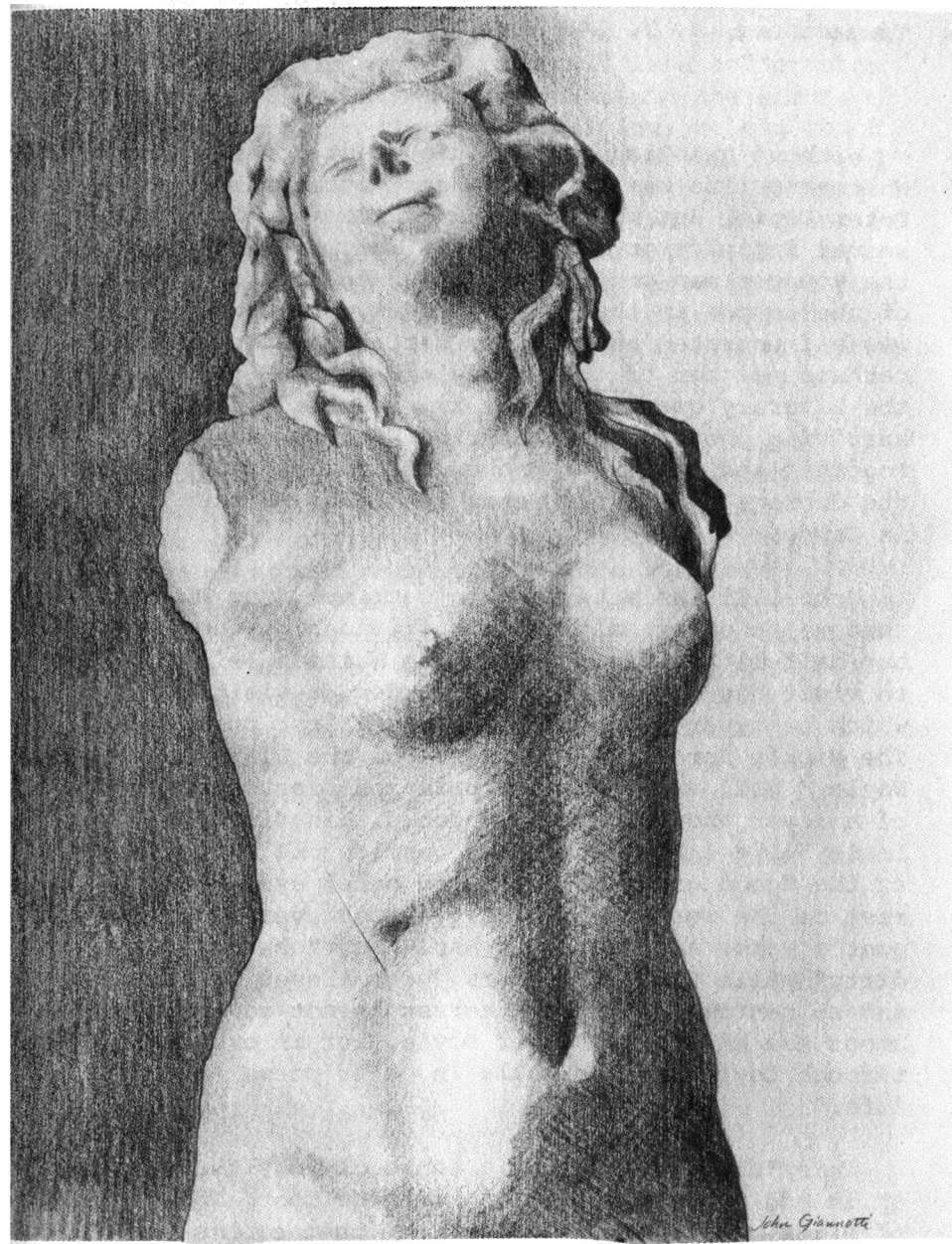


those of little or no imagination, but indispensable to the highest purposes.'" Whitman had such "highest purposes" and could articulate his insights satisfactorily only in poetry. The freedom of his verse form permitted his thought free access to us unencumbered by strict meter and rhyme. That his imagery inclined to masculinity we have seen; that it could have or should have been otherwise we would be fools to wish.

Sheila E. Murphy

THE VISIT HOME

This Christmas I'm bringing home a translator.
I need an ambassador, but cannot afford one.
Besides, my family won't admit that I'm
a separate country.
even when they see a map of me on TV news.
Last year when I tried to tell about my life
someone dabbed white-out on my tongue.
This year if they listen well, they could learn
to know me.
If they listen poorly, they'll disown me.
If they interrupt, I'm moving to Australia.



John Giannotti