A dialogue between I and witness*  
Jochem Naafs

A sensitivity to environment through art.  
From art to art making  
Making a little me  
from clay  
with eyes closed.

Expression of your body  
without these words  
we often think  
are necessary.

But still we talk  
about  
our experiences.

The art is the making.  
The making is the sensing.  
Suffering and passion.  
Going through the experience  
Going through the limen  
Going through the rite  
as a conflict with yourself  
where you have to act upon  
but you don’t.  
Not yet.

You stay in the rite,  
you shut out the light,  
keep your eyes closed  
and drink through the throat  
of your little me.

Your little me and you  
are like the two hats  
like duck and hare,  
you have to dare  
to switch between  
the artist-self and  
the research-self.

A dialogue between  
I and witness  
Reflect and act  
Experience and react  
Or refract

And the river  
flows in space  
and the shore  
moves in time.

*Inspired by Jan van Boeckel’s lecture Researching self-facilitated practices in arts-based environmental education. A report on challenges in performing arts-based auto-ethnographical explorations.