

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.*