

Elton Glaser

NARCISSUS AS IS

Always myself, whatever waters I look into,
I keep my head
Above the flow, and never let the current
Carry me away.
However strong the stream, I want it still.

However strong the stream, I want it. Still,
I sometimes long
For pools so small no winds will sway them
On my face,
Tired of staring at the drift of things.

Tired of staring at the drift of things,
I could see
Beyond my eyes to all that springs below
And rises here,
A glass that goes down deep and bears me up.

A glass that goes down deep and bears me up—
Break it now,
This calm whose end is ice, and not the rush
That keeps me
Always myself, whatever waters I look into.