

Breathing Room 3 - A Self Portrait (1991)
for spoken voice and two-channel audio

by Hildegard Westerkamp

Breathing Room 3 came at a time of change in my life - a time when inevitably, perspectives change, a different sense of being occurs, new opportunities open up and deep reflection seems necessary. I desired to create a portrait that would give me an opportunity to reflect on who I was at that time and how I viewed my life from the vantage point of 45 years of age. It was a pivotal moment, in which I experienced simultaneously a sense of completion and of renewal.

While painters have created self-portraits for the space of their canvas, I have developed one for a 15-minute time span. The piece was performed between 1991 and 1993. It belongs to that and no other time, until I create - like many painters did - another self-portrait from another vantage point.