

ARSEM, EDGE, 2013
NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE

In black, she sat still, her eyes were held in the water of the two glass vessels between her hands. She existed in an intimate space within the greater darkness. There was a projection of sound that marked the passing of seconds; one became very aware of time, and the seven hour duration of the piece. She picked up and pressed one of the glasses to her lips, reducing the capacity. I walked around the space, watching this piece from the outside perimeter for minutes at a time and I stayed over four and a half hours. With excruciating calculation, Arsem used the tips of her fingers to move the glasses across the table. Audience members passed by, and those who hovered in the distant perimeter were closer than they may have thought, for the glasses took on a prism quality, and their bodies were made small and suspended in the water of the glasses. When the glasses met the edge of the table, they teetered, and gravity took over. Arsem slowly rose from her seat and walked into the darkness, and left behind the scattered shards of moments- they were held in displaced bodies of water, in space.