

**Young Girl Staring Out to the North Sea**  
**by Bieke Stengos**

If plankton  
turns to soup  
and sea creatures  
beach themselves  
as if they believe  
life on solid ground  
could save them

And if that solid ground  
starts heaving  
and burning  
swallowing cars  
in a vomit of excess water  
swallowing creatures  
having lost knowledge of  
how to stay alive  
in water

If all that comes to pass  
Will I remember  
sitting on a dune in Cadzand-Bad  
Contemplating the rest of my  
still very young life  
and wondering  
if I could forever  
hide myself  
in a poem