Stella had the gift of premonition. Her sister, a performer known as the Mimic, has the uncanny ability to translate images into sound. Though separated by death, they are bound together by a glass eye and the man to whom it has been entrusted.

Lauren Beck’s short film Look Back tells the story of the Man and the Mimic’s journey to return the eye to the sisters’ childhood home. Together, these two characters travel through a series of strange environments, all connected by the vengeful and redemptive properties of the eye. Look Back asks what it means to return to a place that has been lost. The story examines the unexpected possibilities of what can happen when that reckoning proves impossible.

Look Back is based on a short story of the same name by Teddy Jefferson, author of stories, essays, and plays, including The Wedding, The Desk, and The Insomniac. His translation of Pirandello’s However You Want Me (Come tu mi vuoi) won the PEN translation prize. Director Lauren Beck is currently based in Austin, Texas; she received her MFA from the University of Chicago in 2012. Look Back was filmed on location in Northwest Indiana, with assistance from Film Indiana and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

Look Back tracks its characters’ attempts to recapture a world that is, in a literal sense, underwater. In this way, the film is responsive to the place in which it was made, reflecting on representing the post-industrial sublime. In the end, Look Back feels metaphysically correct—born of our world—only to unravel and become something else entirely, something not of this world.
Screen Share Video Gallery is a venue for screen-based media at the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, designed as a way to showcase student work made in various production courses in DoVA, including Video, Animation and On Time & Space. The space is located on the second floor of the Logan Center and hosts curatorial projects by students, alumni and guests from various Chicago art organizations. Located in the reception area outside of the Film and Video Screening Room, Screen Share functions as a video lounge, showcasing programs of video, animation and new media on a rotating schedule.

For further programming info, please visit: https://arts.uchicago.edu/screen-share-video-gallery

Instagram: @screensharevideogallery
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/screensharevideogallery/
Contact: screensharevideo@gmail.com
Scott Wolniak, Director
Morganne Wakefield, Programming Assistant

Cast In Order of Appearance

Cell Mate: Shawna Franks
Stella: Dado
The Man: Colin Reeves
Prison Guard: Erich Watts
Laughing Man in Theater: Paul Somers
Magician: Dave Wysock
The Mimic: Cindy Henkin
Dock Worker 1: Steve Walker
Dock Worker 2: Peter DeFaria
Pregnant Man: Alex Stein
Angry Mob: Chelsey Rayne, Larry Schmock, Ryan Stephens, David Lovejoy, Liam
Baby

Crew
Assistant Director: Morganne Wakefield
Associate Producer: Andy Bosnak
Additional Camera: Adam J. Minnick
Lighting Design: J.B Spector
Costumes: Takashi Shallow
Grip: Tim Hogan
1st Assistant Camera: Chris Polmanski
Location Sound: Jason Culver
Hair and Makeup: Colleen O’Sullivan
Special Effects: Glenese Hand

Based on the short story by Teddy Jefferson
Produced and Directed by Lauren Beck
Cinematography by Josh Duensing