VIDEO GALLERY

Family Viewing Guide

Journey through music, dance, and documentation with Chicago artists in The Long Dream online video gallery. Use this guide to explore as a family.

Ages 4+

We encourage kids and adults to explore together.

This version of the gallery includes a selection of videos from the full The Long Dream video gallery that are appropriate for folks of all ages. The activities in this guide only reference the videos in the gallery for families.

Here are a few good ones to start with:

- Birth Death Breath
- SHPSHFTR by SANTIAGO X
- I Work With What I Have

All of the videos in this gallery have clear content warnings, so you can decide if there are others you’d like to watch. Preview images for all videos appear when you open the page.
TIPS AND TRICKS FOR WATCHING AS A FAMILY

These videos are more like music videos, dance concerts, or even video games than the movies or TV shows you might be familiar with. Most of them don’t have stories or fictional characters.

Watch as much or as little as you want. Skip around. Come back later.

Allow yourself to be moved. These videos aren’t sacred. You don’t need to sit still while you watch. If you’re inspired to dance, dance! If you’re inspired to sing, sing!

Make a “mind movie” by closing your eyes and listening to the words and music.

Art can be weird. It’s ok to laugh. It’s ok to feel like you don’t understand what’s going on. Enjoy the weirdness!

Imagine the video you’re watching is a dream. Let the images, words, and sounds wash over you. What sticks out? What are you reminded of?

Imagine the video you’re watching is someone else’s dream. Who is the dreamer? What clues can you find about them?

Some of the movies document other projects that exist in other art forms. Read the video descriptions to learn where else and how else you can experience the project.

Some of the videos are by artists who have objects or pictures in the physical galleries of The Long Dream. Keep an eye out for their work.

Diane Christiansen and Jeanne Dunning with Steve Dawson, still from documentation of Birth Death Breath, 2016–20. Performed at Armory Center For The Arts, Pasadena, California. 9 inflatables, two artist-made pedestals, 1 main controller box, 3 connection boxes, various cords, fake snow. Dimensions variable (color, sound). Courtesy of the artists.
SCAVENGER HUNT

Can you find all of these items in the videos?

- A beautiful landscape in Chicago
- A beautiful landscape in someplace far away
- A snowman
- A squirrel
- Soothing breathing
- A dance move you want to try out
- Someone feeling beautiful
- Someone who makes you feel beautiful
- Two people connected and moving together
- Two people holding hands
- Moving patterns
- More colors than you can count
- A song you want to sing

Draw pictures of your top three finds.
PAUSE AND REFLECT

Take a closer look at these still frames from videos in The Long Dream video gallery.

These creatures are changing in lots of different ways. How many different types of changes can you notice in this video (inflate, grow arms, etc.)? Make up a story about what is making them change.

Who is this person, and what are they dreaming about?

ABOVE Derek McPhatter, still from Dare to Dream (Demo Video), 2020. Digital video (color, sound); 5 min., 18 sec. Courtesy of the artist.


UPPER RIGHT Diane Christiansen and Jeanne Dunning with Steve Dawson, still from documentation of Birth Death Breath, 2016–20. Performed at Armory Center For The Arts, Pasadena, California. 9 inflatables, two artist-made pedestals, 1 main controller box, 3 connection boxes, various cords, fake snow. Dimensions variable (color, sound). Courtesy of the artists.

What kinds of beauty do you notice in this video? How do you stay beautiful?