

TURNING A BLIND EYE

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“Man is NOT made out of mud.”

Slide show.

A streetscape of Montreal followed by a portrait of the main 4 characters.

9 still photographs in total: 4 seconds of streetscapes, 2 seconds of characters each.

[TITLE]

EXT. STREETSCAPE - DAY

One of the still streetscapes transforms into motion movie. Subtitle: Montreal, Canada, 2010.

INT. SUBWAY CAR - NIGHT

SUBJECT 20s, inside a subway car, is looking at one of the ads. The ad reads partially “Healthy people of all ages can participate. Financial...” and SUBJECT 20s takes the note of the phone number provided.

INT. SUBJECT 30s's ROOM – NIGHT

SUBJECT 30s, inside a crummy rental room, is browsing the Craigslist ads. One ad partially reads as he scrolls: “Financial compensation will be provided to participate in a 12-day study. Risks...”

Healthy people of all ages can participate. Financial compensation will be provided to participate in a 12-day study. Risks and discomforts: medical monitoring, blood samples, frequent visits.

All 4 of them find the same ad of a research institution on various media that seeks subjects for a clinical experimentation. Each of them contacts the recruiter. They are to meet each other in a room where the 12-day research will be carried out. The cut dialogues between them are composed of sentences with no beginnings or endings, talking about nothing of importance. The dialogues only hint the days passing by as well as revealing the subjects' backgrounds. The nature of the experimentation is not communicated at any point but a routine administration of some eyedrops attracts attention among the usual readings of blood pressure and the like. Everybody happily leaves on day 12, collecting their compensations.

Montreal, Canada, 2011.

Highlights from the same 4 subjects lives. All are still receiving calls/visits from collection agencies and are still leading miserable lives. These fragments are too short, are always from unusual angles hiding the faces of the subjects and not displaying what they are exactly doing. Dialogues give no clue about anything. When one of the subject is properly focussed, it is demonstrated that he/she is at the terminal stage of becoming visually impaired.

The season changes.

The 4 subjects are inside the same subway car but they do not see each other: they are all blind. The film ends with a close-up of another ad in that same subway car, placed above the seat one of the subject sits: "Research participants wanted".

One person in the car takes the note of the phone number provided.