

UC Merced

The Vernal Pool

Title

Screens

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/85p6g9kc>

Journal

The Vernal Pool, 4(2)

Author

Melanson, Camryn

Publication Date

2018

DOI

10.5070/V342038777

Copyright Information

Copyright 2018 by the author(s). This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives License, available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

Peer reviewed|Undergraduate

Screens
By Camryn Melanson

We see each other between glass towers—
artificially polished,
glossed with tenderness,

and screaming
through transparent screens.
I'm soft to the core, delicate at best,

an ice sculpture shy
of one degree.
I touch the way I spit my words,

cold enough to keep you
out, with an iced over handle
that could let you in.

To extend myself to you would be
to carve myself through the
barricade and find

the fire. Burning skin,
but failing to melt us
into one,

chiseling curse words
into crystal,
wishing our mothers had taught us

how to give away ourselves. A single
breath could melt it all
if I only had the lungs.