

Throughout my time at Oxbow, I have been thinking a lot about my family and the people I come from. I have been trying to find an answer to the question: *can you love a family member who you have never met and who passed away before you were born? How do you honor them?* My grandmother was a weaver, who died long before I was born. Although I never knew her, I feel her presence in her weavings and tapestries which I have grown up around. I've realized that the way I can connect with her the most is through her art. In my project, I wanted to show my love for her by using the mediums of tapestry and weaving. To portray this relationship I used the figure of my brothers back reaching up to a tapestry, dripping in wax like a candle at an altar. Sweetgrass grows out of his neck symbolizing the connection of humans to the earth and the sky, and symbolizing the connection between the living and the dead. The piece also uses diagrams of the brain to show the presence of her consciousness in her weavings. The movement of the sweetgrass symbolizes the flow of blood from the heart to the brain as well as familial blood that my grandmother and I share.

I created this piece using a variety of methods including photo transfer, indigo dyeing, cyanotyping, rit dyeing, and sewing and used plaster mold making, wax pouring and braiding sweetgrass for the figure of my brother. What was difficult in this process was to find a way that these pieces wove together. I decided to install my pieces so that all are individually visible, however when you enter and exit the studio you see them as one piece because they are all part of the same story.

SOUND OF THE LIVING SHOULDERING THE DEAD

Xanthe I.

Bolinas, CA