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Artist Statement 2017

My most recent complete body of work is a reflection upon familiar places and spaces from childhood memory. My MFA thesis exhibition, *Belonging of Objects*, serves as a distillation of work made throughout the last five years, with these concepts in mind. Many of the objects made from ceramic, wood, handmade paper, another mixed materials are taken from recollections of time spend with family members who are no longer living. Through installation of sculptural objects, images, and video, the viewer is invited to both literally and figuratively enter the space of my childhood and connect their own remembrances with those presented.

Objects are items we cling to; things we rely on for comfort when experiencing turmoil. Objects bear witness to the narratives of our lives told by those who make them and, later, possess them. When traveling somewhere unfamiliar, I make sure to wear a locket given to me at the age of six. The inexpensive locket contains a picture of each of my parents and was a gift from my mother. As a child, new environments terrified me to tears, like kindergarten. Each day, my parents would drop me at school and as I felt the grip of fear grow into my throat, I would touch the locket around my neck and feel protected; safe within those moments of crisis.

This is how I have begun to think of my work; as anchors for moments experienced, survived, and cherished. It is through the representation of objects that I become aware of my position as an adult longing for the contentment of my younger self, finding humor in the futility of that pursuit.