

## **PROJECT 4 INDEPENDENT WORK: PROJECT PROPOSAL**

### **CONCEPT:**

Some objects in my life take on a role as signifiers of important people or events. The meaning I attach to them makes it a challenge to let them go, as though my identity or precious memories are at risk if I let go. My thesis is that art can be an avenue to transform the meaning ascribed to physical objects into imagery that honours the meaning but frees it from the object. It may be a deep form of letting go. I plan to read the Buddhist literature on its ideas about attachment, as well as further research in psychology and art history.

### **CONTEXT:**

The immediate context for this idea is my decision to give away a piano. It came from my mother's childhood home, she and I both learned to play on it, and my father played it constantly throughout my life. I still hear and see him when I look at the piano, though he died five years ago. However, the piano sits unused at my house. I plan to give it to a friend who will play it frequently. While I know it is a great thing for the piano to see real use again, I am grieving its loss and some part of me feels like a traitor to my father's memory. I plan to incorporate some of my previous drawing studies of the piano, and review photographs of my father and I at the piano over the years. I am considering symbols such as my father's figure or portrait melded with the instrument; rubbings of the instrument; elements of a piano such as strings or keys or sheet music being incorporated into the drawing... perhaps the piano strings signify "strings attached" and the piece shows the journey to letting go.

### **PRODUCTION:**

I would like to draw with charcoal, possibly on Mylar, to align this work with Project 1 that was focused on my mother. I am imagining one large piece rather than many small ones. I do have a piece of Mylar that is nearly as tall and as wide as the piano itself, so it could be nearly to scale. I do not know how to meld alternative media with Mylar, so if I pursue the idea of piano strings or keys or pages of sheet music, will need to figure out how they are assembled or connected to the main drawing.