

THE GIANT DESPAIR: PART I
Staged audio installation
23m12, looped
The Tetley



A rolling virtuoso piano soundtrack fills the darkened gallery, running the gamut from lurid romance and pastoral lyricism to pounding melodrama. In the centre, a spotlighted public telephone mounted on theatrical flats emanates low-level muttering and chattering. As the viewer puts the receiver to their ear, a looped stream of consciousness monologue strings together sentimental memories of family life, accusations, and backhanded insults, at one moment full of rage, and at the next, melancholy. It becomes clear that the voice is synchronized to the ambient piano score, controlling the emotional temperature of the room. Brimfield compresses over twenty years of occasional one-sided circular conversations with her estranged father into an experience akin to listening to the sound of the ocean in a conch shell; the distant Giant Despair is adrift and diminishing. The piece opens a strand of autofictional interrogation that runs throughout the exhibition, exploring the toxic legacy of endlessly rehearsed family narratives on mental health.