Synopsis of Painting Faye Salvez

Three years after Faye Salvez went missing, her family and friends still have no closure. When a young artist promises he can capture Faye’s essence in a family portrait by speaking with her loved ones, Faye’s friends and family gather for a series of interviews over the course of one day. As tensions build, memories clash, and truths are challenged, we are faced with the question: Is it the responsibility of an artist to present the truth, even at the risk of its audience?

Characters in this excerpt:
Blake - Faye’s father

Act 1, Scene 4

Blake enters with the clay art class sculptures. He starts putting them back, gently, deliberately. He can’t remember where one of them went. He switches two of them around. There’s an odd one out. He starts over. He starts over.

SONG: REPAIR
(TRACK #5)
BLAKE

This was... here.
This was... here?
This was...

(He starts over)

This was... here.
This was... here.

(Switches)

This was... This was...

(He doesn’t know. He starts reordering things on the shelf)

Freeze this house in time
Keep it as it was
I get older every day
But this room never does

Freeze this house in time
Every corner of this place
Fill this house with anything
But, god forbid, empty space

And mend what’s broken
But never touch the source of the tear
Never really fix
Never really clean
Just repair.

This was ... here.
This was ... here.
This was ....

(He starts over)

Freeze this house in time
A constant state of half-repair
The boiler’s failing, the wallpaper peels
There’s a backpack on her chair.

Mend what’s broken
But never touch the source of the tear
Never really fix
Never really clean
Just repair.

And the pipes will still make this sound tomorrow
And the next day and the next month and the next year -

(He almost slams one of the clay sculptures down too roughly but catches himself halfway through the motion. He stares blankly at the sculpture for a long time, as if seeing it for the first time, then places it down, very gently)

This was - here.