

# MAALIK MBATCH

## Archives

Given the traumatic series of events that I have experienced in my life, I use my artwork as a confessional venue to talk about emotions that are difficult to articulate through words. In the studio, I work to reconcile with my inner self and heal mental wounds related to my identity. I am of African descent, yet I was born and grew up in England, raised by an American white mother, in a majority Afro Caribbean neighborhood. My perspective makes my work unique, as I am able to explore concepts of trauma, suffering, heartbreak, loneliness and all the darkest spaces that exist in our universe from multiple points of view.

My viewpoint is made evident in the black and white photography series that speaks to the feeling of loneliness in Providence College classrooms and lecture halls for ethnic minorities in our student population. This topic stems from my experience as one of seven students of Afro Caribbean descent attending a private high school in London, and part of a slightly larger minority here at Providence College. In bringing this work forward to be viewed by an audience I want to engage in public therapy between my internal and external self.

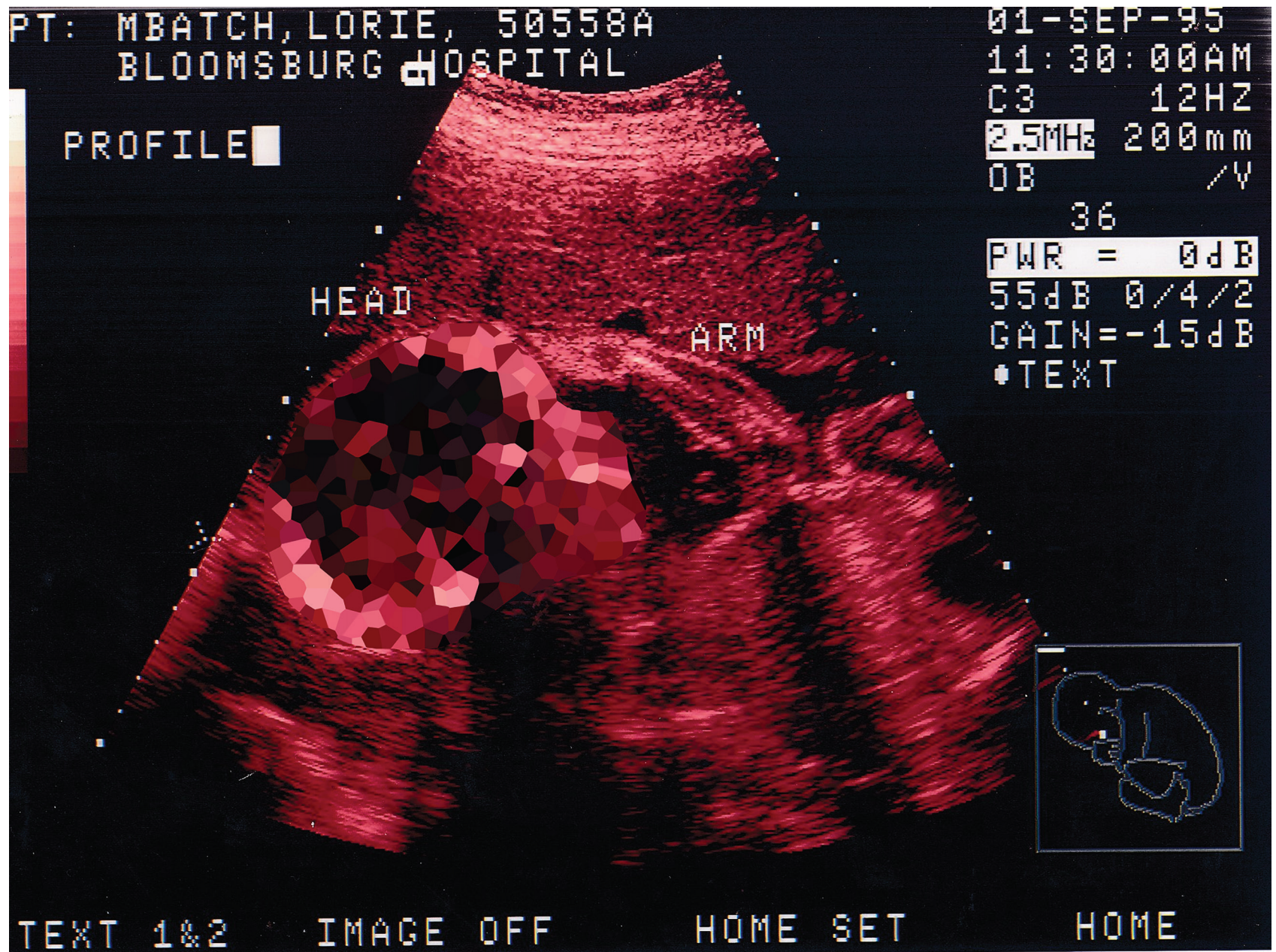
All the work I create is based on internal narratives, such as the series of archival family photos I have altered through Photoshop by removing faces and filling the void with background elements of the scene. In removing specific elements I acknowledge the fragility of memories, and the many changes we experience in our lives. In a distinct but related body of work I have used long exposure light drawing images, taken in a kitchen setting, to create my interpretation of a self portrait which finds me engaged in an activity that is a significant part of my life and my culture. It is an important part of the only two things my father taught me. I was shown what not to do in life, and secondly the importance of food in our Gambian culture.

In the end I work to reconcile my spiritual fractures, and embrace the idea that I am my greatest enemy and harshest judge. Once I make peace with myself I have achieved my goal.



*Untitled*, Photograph, 18" x 24", 2018





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