

Mapping Memory

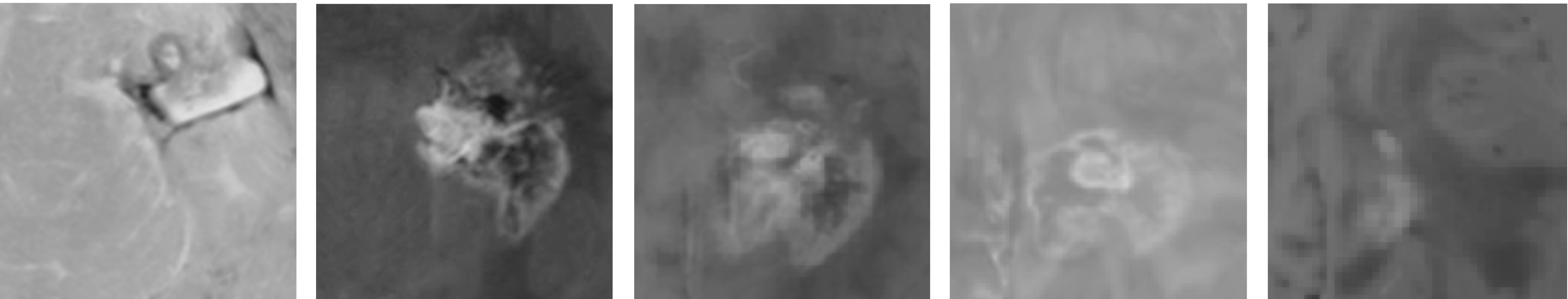
Exhibition at Community Artists' Collective

Houston, Texas

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Objectives:

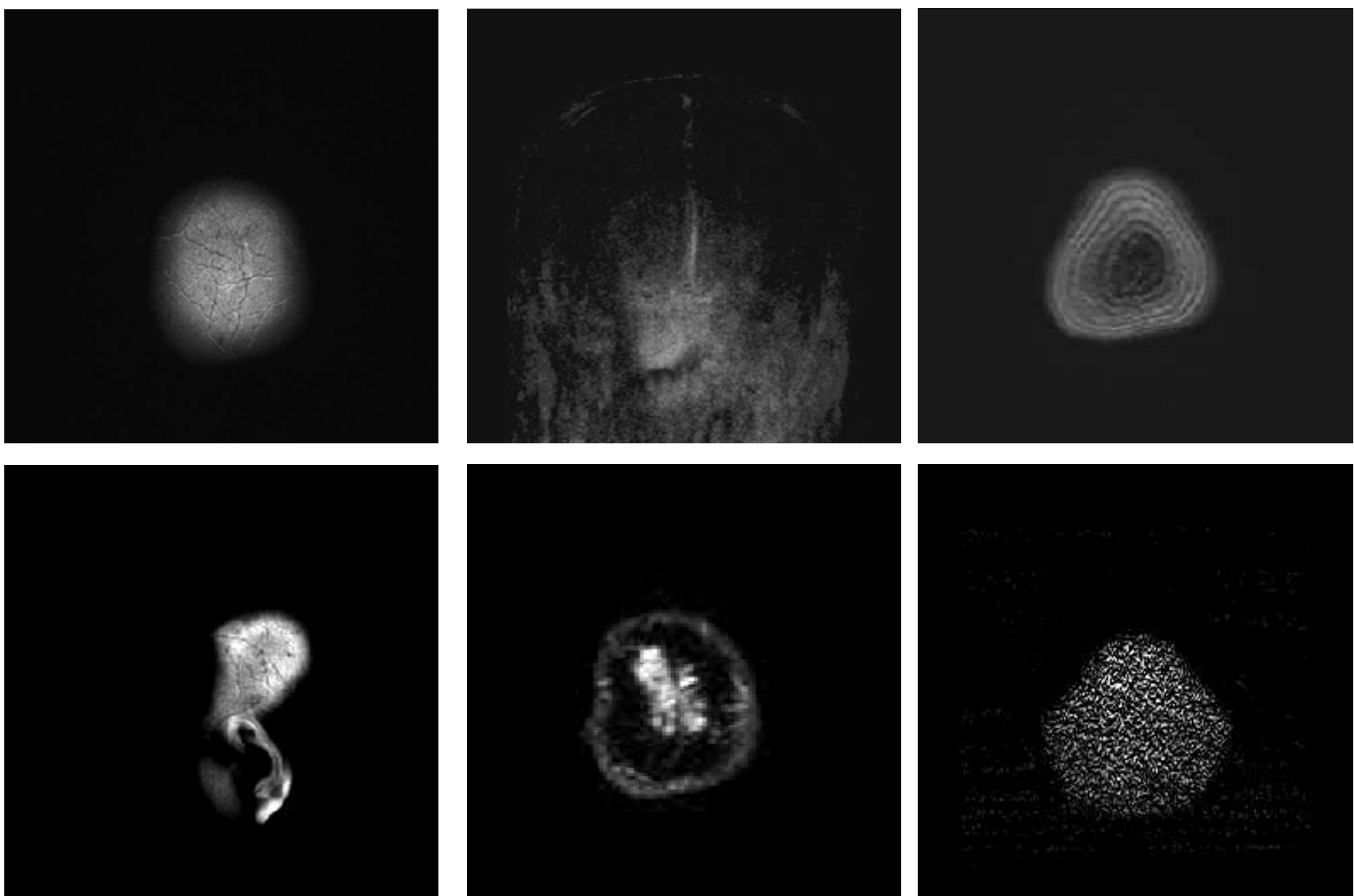
The goal of my work is to visually exhibit the complex exchanges between ideas & words, thought & speech, and concept & writing. I'm interested in examining alternative ways that show various pathways to communicate, using personal experience as the basis of my research. My father was diagnosed with brain cancer which resulted in aphasia, a language disability that affects a person's ability to communicate. This rewiring of the brain necessitated the adoption of other means to express his needs.



Still images from the video project "Lossy"

Current Practice & New Approaches:

My practice incorporates a variety of mediums, such as photography, text, installation, and sculpture. This is the first time-based project I have embarked on. The nature of the MRI brain scans (low quality, digital, grayscale) asked for a more ephemeral, transitive medium that working in video provided. I'm excited for the possibilities that time-based media allows.



Brain scans for my upcoming project "Father's Constellation."



Jean in her studio at Ragdale Artist Residency in Lake Forest, IL, June 16-July 4, 2025

Results:

The project "Lossy" utilizes my father's greyscale brain scans of the tumor. I created a looped video with the cross-section images, paired with audio of my father's tapes of music and his singing. The pixelated images and low-quality audio is highlighted, a play on the word lossy—irretrievable digital compression—to show disintegration, degradation, and distance from the subject. There's the illusion of movement of the tumor, growing and collapsing into itself. The images shift to low quality in sync with the warp and static quality of the audio. The video loops in the same sequence in a visual round, gaining contrast and speed. This creates a layered effect, both in image and audio. The video culminates in a cacophony of images and audio and then slowly loops back to the original sequence. I am interested in the contrast between the interiority of the body shown in the image, both in physical and conceptual form, in comparison to the detachment the same digital image provides.

Next Steps:

This project will be exhibited at the Community Artists' Collective in Houston, Texas from October 11-November 26, 2025.