

Dominique Nok

White-Washed

Dominique Doesburg-Nok is a Surinamese woman, married and mother of two teenage girls. In 2005 she graduated from the University of Journalism in Utrecht, Netherlands, and 8 years ago she and her family left Amsterdam to settle in London. As a social documentary and lifestyle portrait photographer, she loves to give her clients timeless images which they can cherish for generations.

‘White-Washed’ is based on a topic of which Dominique is passionate. On one of the most concerning occasions she unknowingly applied a skin whitening product, the moisturiser of a close family member, to her skin. This experience made her realise that the darker complexion is not only branded as ‘less’ by numerous in the white Western society, but that it can also be perceived as such by her own Black community. The reality that Black people want to create a more European appearance (apparently rooted in colonialism), by using bleach and brightening products with the risk of burns, scars, and mercury poisoning, is alarming. ‘The colour of one’s skin should never be the deciding factor to get a good grade, a job or even to find love, because every shade of Black is beautiful.’

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