



## **FORMAT23**

**16 March – 9 April 2023**

**Venues across Derby**

### ***What Photography Can Be***

FORMAT International Photography Festival – organised in partnership between QUAD and the University of Derby – returns in March 2023, emerging from the days of global pandemic with renewed purpose - poised to transform the historic city of Derby into a vibrant showcase for the very best photography and lens-based media being produced today.

The days of lockdown were seen by many as a chance to reflect and recharge, upending perceived agendas and to think about the world anew. For FORMAT23 we invite our audiences and our colleagues to stop, take stock and consider '*What Photography Can Be*'.

FORMAT23 will feature exhibitions in key Derby cultural organisations such as QUAD, Déda, Artcore and the Museum of Making, alongside revitalising repurposed buildings and public places, celebrating work by a worldwide community of artists. Notable exhibition projects as part of the festival include *Radical Souls* at QUAD that will focus on global dance genres and notions of self-identity, and a new body of work by award-winning photographer Oliver Frank Chanarin at the Museum of Making that explores '*the drive for attention, the complexity of being seen and the anxiety of being overlooked, in the shifting terrain of documentary photography*'.

Across 12 venues more than 200 artists from 55 countries present works that examine themes that matter now – water scarcity and future food provision; migration; questions of what identity is, and the implications of climate change. FORMAT23 will be OPEN to discussion, to debate – and will feature the return of the international Conference and two Portfolio Review days alongside the FORMAT Photobook Market. We invite you to shape the photography of now towards a future of what photography can be.

FORMAT is organised by QUAD and the University of Derby and is supported by Arts Council England, Derby City Council and multiple partners from the UK and abroad. The FORMAT23 Press Launches have been generously supported by Marketing Derby.



**The lead festival exhibition, titled *Radical Souls*, features work by *Cecilia Bengolea (Argentina/France); Dele Adeyamo (UK); Luciana Demichelis (Argentina) & Volta Yang (China)*. Curated by *Niamh Treacy (FORMAT Curator & Coordinator)*, the exhibition explores how dance, in its limitless forms, is used as a revolutionary tool for expressing self-identity, reaching out for freedom and communicating experiences that transcend the abilities of spoken language.**

Works in the exhibition will traverse dance genres and styles that are not governed by rules of strict technique but those that are instead fed through emotion, culture, sounds and in some cases, rebellion. Forms of movement which move beyond the boundaries of their own bodies provide the performer with a sense of unyielding freedom that cannot be achieved through other means of self-expression and become a powerful method of reinterpreting life.

Dance halls, underground clubs and neighbourhood streets provide a backdrop of escapism that in some parts of the world is vital for self-survival. In a world where societal groups are marginalised and discriminated against, the sanctuary of these spaces can often provide a haven where an individual's true identity can be reclaimed in its purest form - free from persecution. Focused on the organic coming together of like-minded strangers, these 'anthropological places' form effervescent, transient environments that soak up shared experience. The exhibition will present a selection of new and existing photographic and moving image works which celebrate and explore the embodiment of euphoria experienced through movement of the human form.



Oliver Frank Chanarin, *with Adam*, 10 x 8 inches, c-type print, unique artist proof (#0192888727), 2022. Courtesy and © the artist. Commissioned and produced by Forma, in collaboration with nine UK organisations. Supported by Arts Council England National Project Grant and the Art Fund.

**Photographer Oliver Frank Chanarin premieres his first solo exhibition at the Museum of Making in Derby, on the occasion of FORMAT23. The project is commissioned and produced by Forma in collaboration with eight UK organisations throughout 2022. Over the next two years, different iterations of the project will be presented nationally.**

Oliver Frank Chanarin's new work explores the drive for attention, the complexity of being seen and the anxiety of being overlooked, in the shifting terrain of documentary photography. It comprises over a thousand negatives, 300 analogue prints and is accompanied by written accounts that offer reflections on the mercurial nature of identity in Britain. The project is the result of multiple journeys undertaken around the country on the peripheries of the mainstream. Framed by conversations and unexpected encounters, workshops and collaborations, Chanarin deploys an analogue camera as a tool for social exchange. The resulting images speak to the dynamics and expectations at play between the photographer and sitter, whilst the complete archive captures a highly subjective record of a nation in transition.

Forma has partnered with eight UK institutions to co-commission Oliver Frank Chanarin's new project and co-produce the work in their region. In Derby, Chanarin and Forma collaborated with QUAD/FORMAT and Derby Museums to make portraits with people and communities in Derbyshire.

Beyond Derby, the project's nationwide co-commissioners and co-producers are: Artes Mundi, Cardiff; Guildhall Art Gallery, London; KARST, Plymouth; Norfolk Museum Services (Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery, Norwich and Time and Tide Museum, Great Yarmouth); Original Projects, Great Yarmouth; Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Wolverhampton. The production has been made possible through generous funding from Arts Council England, the Art Fund and a National Project Grant awarded by the Arts Council England. Kick The Dust and City of London Corporation have supported the productions in Great Yarmouth and London respectively.



Images courtesy of Aaron Williamson

**Based on an extensive archive of photographic images and memorabilia the *Derby Punk Archive* will be exhibited in QUAD Gallery 2, curated by Derby born artist Aaron Williamson.** The exhibition will explore the Punk scene in Derby between 1976 – 80. Featuring an archival collection of ephemera (posters, fanzines, tickets, badges), it will examine a slice of social history in which Aaron himself was present at most key moments during Derby's punk years as a band/audience member, clothes shop assistant, promoter, DIY cassette tapes and records producer, writer and general scenester.



Images courtesy of Roger Smith

**Continuing the theme of 'dance', the exhibition *We Danced in Derby* at Déda will – like *Derby Punk Archive* - delve into the social history of Derby city in the 1960s and 70s.** Through the prism of ballrooms, discos and clubs, this nostalgic exhibition celebrates how the 1960s changed the way people danced, foregrounding the music that inspired this transformation. Created in collaboration with Roger Smith, a local writer and heritage researcher, it will feature images of the popular Derby social venues of the time, some of which have since been demolished, alongside visual, written and oral history memories of the people who 'were there'. This exhibition will take place at Déda - one of our key festival partners. Déda is a Centre for Dance, Movement and Creativity based in the heart of the Cathedral Quarter in Derby – connecting locally, nationally and internationally, delivering an exceptional programme of dance, contemporary circus and outdoor performance.



Image by M'hammed Kilito



Image by Anton Dolezal



Image by: Claudia Amatruda



Image by: Sheung Yiu

**The FORMAT23 OPEN Call** received 979 submissions and nearly 15,000 images from 72 countries across 6 continents. 26 projects have been selected by the FORMAT/QUAD curatorial team following recommendations and selections from our international jury, to be exhibited in venues across Derby as part of FORMAT23. Ranging from themes of imagined utopian futures and queer ecology to the impacts of extreme climate change, through to the use of digital, analogue and alternative processes these projects all push the boundaries of and explore *'What Photography Can Be'*.

*The submissions for the FORMAT23 OPEN Call were outstanding this year from photographers and curators based all over the world. It was a great challenge and privilege to encounter so many ideas and diverse projects by a compelling range of image makers, researchers and producers. The process of selection truly enabled us to see what photography is and can be right now.* **Louise Fedotov-Clements - Co-Founder and Patron of FORMAT International photography Festival.**

**Open Call Selected Artists:** Antone Dolezal (US); Too many Pictures (France); Terje Abusdal (Norway); Alex Davenport (UK); Crystal Bennes (UK); Sheung Yiu (Hong Kong/Finland); Joanna Vestey (UK); William Lakin (UK); Md Fazla Rabbi Fatiq (Bangladesh); Wai Hang Siu (Hong Kong/UK); M'hammed Kilito (Morocco); exsample (Germany); An Su (China/UK); Joshua Phillips & Benjamin McDonnell (UK); Maryam Wahid (UK); The Sustainable Photobook Publishing (SPP) network (UK); Ngadi Smart (Sierra Leone); Curator: Peggy Sue Amison (Germany) with Artists: Adrian L Burrell (US), Rana Young (US), Tanya Habjouqa (Jordan/US), Matthew Thorn (Australia), Derik Lynch (Australia), Pádraig Spillane (Ireland), Aideen Barry (Ireland), Arko Datto (India) and Katrin Koenning (Germany/Australia); Theo Ellison (UK); Philippe Braquenier & David De Beyter (Belgium); Claudia Amatruda (Italy); Phillipa Klaiber & Michael Swann (UK); Yzza Slaouoi (Morocco); Craig Ames (UK); Pratya Jankong & Olga Fedorova (US); Curator: Helen Starr (UK) with Artist: Kinnari Saraiya (UK).



Louise Beer, Artist Impression

**Derby Cathedral and QUAD/FORMAT are partnering on a co-commission for a site-specific work to be presented at the Cathedral during FORMAT23.** The partnership sought artist project proposals that took inspiration from the Christian observance and celebrations of Lent. Artists were asked to consider themes such as spirituality, sacrifice, release, isolation, rising/ rebirth, temptation, confession, forgiveness, and community. The selected artist, Louise Beer will present the project Gathering Light, consisting of three works – a large scale installation; a quiet contemplative projection space and a space for sharing thoughts. Each work inviting a moment of reflection of our place in the cosmos, and a moment of space to try and find inner peace.



Image: Natalia González @nataliaga3

*'Portrait from Bournemouth featuring @chloemarieeaston and her fantastic piano.'*



Image: Gregory Jagged @vidium

**FORMAT/QUAD in partnership with Historic England and Photoworks present *Picturing High Streets* - a three-year project that will create a contemporary picture of England's high streets.** The project has two parts: a socially engaged photographer in residence programme and a public call-out to create an unofficial photographic archive of the English high street on Instagram.

A national outdoor exhibition showcasing work submitted by the public will go on display throughout England from Spring next year. As part of this project FORMAT will be selecting submissions to feature on Derby's high streets. Working with Jack Arts, supported by Historic England and Derby City Council this outdoor exhibition will give a view of the best and most celebrated parts of the country's high streets through the eyes of the general public, charting and celebrating the history and experiences of the people and places that make up an often-overlooked fixture in all our lives.

Over the next two months FORMAT/QUAD are inviting the people of Derby and Derbyshire to respond to the theme *'Art in the Streets'*; Show us the people, public art and performances that turn your high street into a piece of art. From street art to street dance, murals to window displays, local characters to hidden hang outs, send us the photos that celebrate Derby and Derbyshire in all its forms!

A selection of photographs from across will form an outdoor exhibition opening on 16 March 2023 as part of the next FORMAT International Photography Festival biennale – FORMAT23. The artwork will be installed within freestanding outdoor exhibition panels and displayed in multiple sites around Derby City Centre.



## NOTES TO EDITORS

**QUAD** is an international centre for engagement in contemporary art and film, based in Derby. Its year-round programme focuses on major exhibitions, professional practice for artists, mass participation, commissions, independent film and the creative use of emergent digital technologies.

QUAD is a charity focused on intercultural dialogue through supporting diverse audiences to engage, develop skills and contribute to contemporary culture. Year-round, it's learning, education and participation programmes involve people and communities locally and worldwide in innovative arts programmes. QUAD provides creative participatory and learning opportunities for people in a safe and welcoming environment for visitors and participants. We collaborate and work in partnership with others to deliver activities that make a positive impact on their lives. [www.derbyquad.co.uk](http://www.derbyquad.co.uk)

**FORMAT International Photography Festival** was established in 2004 at QUAD and is the UK's leading international contemporary festival of photography and related media. It organises a year-round programme of international commissions, open calls, residencies, conferences and collaborations in the UK and internationally and welcomes over 100,000 visitors from all over the world to its biennale.

The festival and off year programmes celebrate the wealth of contemporary photographic practice and feature everything from major conceptual works, participative projects, documentary photography, mobile phone imagery to the archive and all that falls between. We are concerned with what is happening now in the scene and beyond, whilst sharing and contributing to it.

FORMAT is the place to engage with an incredible range of work from new and emerging photographers alongside that of some of the best-known practitioners in the world. FORMAT is focused on developing opportunities for audiences to see, debate, develop, contribute and participate in the best of what photography is and can be, through our comprehensive professional practice programmes and a yearly international photography portfolio review.

FORMAT is organised by QUAD and the University of Derby and is supported by Arts Council England, Derby City Council and multiple partners from the UK and abroad.

**The University of Derby** is a modern university with a modern outlook. Everything we do is driven by delivering excellence and opportunities for our students, our staff and our region. The University were one of the first UK universities to launch a photography degree and boast over half a century of heritage in photographic education and proudly support FORMAT.

## **FORMAT23 Festival Information**

Festival Opening Weekend: 16 – 19 March 2023

The FORMAT23 team have organised an amazing line up of activities for the opening weekend.

### **Thursday 16 March**

The opening night will see exhibition openings in venues across Derby; the launch of the FORMAT Photobook Market & Exhibition curated by Francesca Seravalle; live music and the ever-popular FORMAT After Party.

### **Friday 17 March**

The FORMAT23 all-day conference, taking place at QUAD and organised by University of Derby, will be a multi-strand event, inspired by the thesis: 'What Photography Can Be' and featuring artists and curators exhibiting as part of the festival.

Followed by more FORMAT23 exhibition launches at the University of Derby, Markeaton Street Campus with a drink's reception and performances.

Derby's music recording studio and live music venue Dubrek will be the venue for more partying.

### **Saturday 18 March**

The return of the annual FORMAT Portfolio Review, with over 40 international photography professionals, the UK's largest gathering of experts, offering help and advice to photographers. Followed by the Portfolio Walk and presentation of the Portfolio Review Awards.

A special after Party will be announced soon to take place at Derby's Chocolate Factory, 10 years on from FORMAT's resurrection of the venue.

## Sunday 19 March

Join the FORMAT23 bus tour for a trip to The Wireworks Project, which is hosting a brand-new work by artist Thomas Wynne where we will enjoy a yoga and wellbeing walk around Shining Cliff woods, experiencing art installations along the way. Followed by an 'in conversation' and food cooked by the incredible Ivan Smith, co-director of Wireworks.

## 16 - 19 March

The FORMAT Photobook Market returns to Derby, curated by Francesca Seravalle. The three-day event will bring together publishers, bookshops, artists and photographers from across the globe. We also present the FORMAT Photobook Exhibition. A space for photobook performance, groups to create new work and engage audiences in workshops and activities, artist talks about photobooks and finally a place for meeting and sharing.

The FORMAT23 Photobook Exhibition will be dedicated to the sensorial experience of the photobook, performing and discovering the book's format and elements.

FORMAT23 will host a series of talks, workshops and film screenings in collaboration with our festival artists and various exciting partners.

**Déda** is a Centre for Dance, Movement and Creativity based in the heart of the cathedral quarter in Derby – connecting locally, nationally and internationally. Déda has 3 studios, a 124 seat theatre and produces Derby Festé - an annual international outdoor street arts festival. We are a band 2 Arts Council England National Portfolio organisation and a registered charity (1053633). We attract 54,000 visitors to our building each year. [www.deda.uk.com](http://www.deda.uk.com)

**Forma** has partnered with nine UK institutions to commission and produce Oliver Frank Chanarin's new work: Artes Mundi, Cardiff; Guildhall Art Gallery, London; KARST, Plymouth; Norfolk Museum Services, through Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery and Time and Tide Museum, Great Yarmouth; Original Projects, Great Yarmouth; QUAD/FORMAT and Derby Museums, Derby; Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Wolverhampton. The production is made possible through generous funding from Arts Council England, the Art Fund and a National Project Grant awarded by the Arts

Council England. Kick The Dust and City of London Corporation have supported the productions in Great Yarmouth and London respectively.

Forma is a contemporary art organisation, charity and National Portfolio Organisation, supported by the Arts Council England, that champions ideas and artists who address the social and political questions of our times. Through a discursive process, we nurture artists' creative vision and grow their ambition in

order to develop collaborative projects that are career-defining and lead to new major opportunities around the world. We pride ourselves in being an organisation that artists want to work with. We offer commissioning, fundraising and production expertise, and as a non-gallery-based organisation we present projects in partnership with cultural institutions across the UK and internationally.

<https://forma.org.uk/> | @formaartsmedia

**The Museum of Making** in the Derwent Valley Mills UNESCO World Heritage Site is a contemporary space telling Derby's 300-year history of making to inspire new creativity. Designed and made by the people and industries of Derby with exhibits, workshops, activities and events, there's something here for everyone including a new café, shop and venue hire space.

Derby Silk Mill is widely regarded as the site of the world's first modern factory, built in the valley that changed the world. Industry brought prosperity to some and poverty and wage slavery to others. Yet it shaped Derby as a city of making and creativity. Industrial society led to the creation of civic institutions and stimulated a civil society in which people campaigned for social and political rights.

[www.derbymuseums.org](http://www.derbymuseums.org)

**Derby Cathedral** is a lively place of worship with regular services, in person and live-streamed, involving its flourishing Cathedral Choir. A place of musical and cultural excellence, it frequently hosts concerts and events. It is also one of the oldest buildings in Derby City Centre and as a Grade 1 listed building, it is of high historical significance.

As a Church of England Cathedral, it is a sacred place and sign of unity for Christians of many traditions and a meeting place of faiths.

Derby Cathedral aims to develop strong relationships with all its stakeholders to become a place for inspirational music and worship, learning, heritage stories, arts and culture.

[www.derbycathedral.org](http://www.derbycathedral.org)

**Historic England** are Historic England the public body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment, from beaches and battlefields to parks and pie shops. We protect, champion and save the places that define who we are and where we've come from as a nation. We care passionately about the stories they tell, the ideas they represent and the people who live, work and play among them. Working with communities and specialists we share our passion, knowledge and skills to inspire interest, care and conservation, so everyone can keep enjoying and looking after the history that surrounds us all. Follow us on social media @HistoricEngland

**Photoworks** an international platform for artists and audiences, Photoworks champions photography for everyone. [www.photoworks.org.uk](http://www.photoworks.org.uk)

**Picturing High Streets commission** is produced in partnership with GRAIN Projects, Impressions Gallery, Open Eye Gallery, PARC (Photography and the Archive Research Centre), Photofusion, QUAD/FORMAT, Redeye, ReFramed and The Photographers' Gallery.

Six artists, selected via open call, are undertaking residencies at six high street locations across England. Tim Mills (Coventry), Natalie Willatt (Stoke), Suzanne St Clare (Chester), Tony Mallon (Prescot), Rehan Jamil (Tower Hamlets) and Khatun (Leicester) are all using a socially-engaged approach, working

alongside local communities to create a contemporary portrait of England's high streets between now and 2024. A number of the images they produce will become part of the Historic England Archive and feature in the outdoor exhibition.

Each of the six photographers will also benefit from mentoring support delivered by Impressions Gallery, PARC (Photography and the Archive Research Centre), Redeye The Photography Network, ReFramed and The Photographers' Gallery.

### **What they say about FORMAT: the biggest, best and boldest UK photography festival**

*FORMAT is a festival extraordinaire it not only brings and energises the international photography community together, it also enriches Derby and its communities building ideas for a more informed and enlightened planet...* **Skinder Hundal MBE, Director Arts British Council**

*FORMAT comes as an answer to the need to communicate across cultures and distance, and the desire to show what ordinary life offers if we open ourselves to looking at the humour, tragedy, joy, effort, grace, disaster, eloquence, harmony, and the rest of the full range of what life provides for us every day.*- **Joel Meyerowitz**

*FORMAT provides an unrivalled platform for leading photographers from around the world to gather, show and discuss their work.* - **Brian Griffin, FORMAT Patron**

*FORMAT is a truly ambitious and huge enterprise, an intelligently and coherently curated festival* – **Arts Council England**

### **FORMAT 2004 - 2023: By the numbers**

Festivals:	10
Exhibitors	25,000+
Countries	100+
Visitors	1,000,000+

### **FORMAT23: 16 March – 19 April 2023**

Twitter [@formatfestival](https://twitter.com/formatfestival)

Instagram [@formatfestival](https://www.instagram.com/formatfestival)

Facebook [www.facebook.com/formatfestival](https://www.facebook.com/formatfestival)

Website [www.formatfestival.com](http://www.formatfestival.com)

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Header image by Antone Dolezal

