

FORMAT25 offers a snapshot of “The Pioneering City”

Derby's role in hosting the internationally renowned photography festival, FORMAT, is set to take on added significance in 2025.

FORMAT International Photography Festival was established in 2004 and is the UK's leading international contemporary festival of photography. In addition to organising a year-round programme of international commissions, open calls, residencies, conferences and collaborations, it also welcomes more than 100,000 visitors to its Biennale in Derby from all corners of the globe.

The Festival itself celebrates the wealth of contemporary photographic practice, and features everything from major conceptual works, participative projects, documentary photography, mobile phone imagery and “all that falls in between”.

FORMAT25 will once again be 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.

The Festival's launch weekend is scheduled for 13 to 16 March, and will include the exhibition openings, portfolio reviews, FORMAT's annual conference, artist talks as well as the hugely popular FORMAT Photobook Market.

Visitors to the event will have numerous opportunities for audiences to see, debate, develop, contribute and participate in the best of “what photography is, and can be”.

Set to run through to 30 March, the chosen theme for 2025 is: 'Conflicted'. Chosen more as a guide rather than a rule, the theme was intended to prompt responses from artists across the globe, via the FORMAT25 Open Call, to propose work that reflects multiple facets, factions, hopes and fears of our world, today.

It will be staged, this year, against the backdrop of a city on the threshold of major change, which has come about as a result of £4.48bn worth of investment in the city's infrastructure since 2011, and a further £2.6bn that has also been earmarked for future development.

One of the biggest transformations in the history of Derby's city centre will become a reality in Spring, 2025, when the new £45.8 million entertainment and conference venue, Becketwell Live opens for business. Derby's refurbished Victorian Market Hall, meanwhile, is all set to bring together the best of the region's independent shopping, eating, drinking and entertainment when it reopens to the public in the Spring of 2025.

And while FORMAT25 will once again utilise many of Derby's key and landmark buildings, the city itself is also planning to feature two other claims to fame, when it comes to the art of photography.

One is Derby's pioneering female photographer Constance Mundy, the wife of William Henry Fox Talbot. The other is Winters of Derby, the longest running photography business in Britain.

Both are to be part of a major new campaign designed to help put 'The Pioneering City' of Derby on the map in 2025.

Watch for further announcements from FORMAT 25 at: <https://formatfestival.com>. And, for tourist information about Derby, visit <https://www.visitderby.co.uk>.

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