

DERBY – GREAT PLACE, GREAT BASE

International Photography Festival puts Derby art in focus

The 2013 edition of the FORMAT International Photography Festival will be held in the City of Derby from Friday, March 8th to Sunday, April 7th.

Now firmly established as one of the leading photography festivals in the world, FORMAT13 stands at the cutting edge of the art and, for 2013, has adopted “Factory” as its major theme.

The festival is held every two years, and sets out to celebrate the wealth of contemporary practice in international photography. It is also a rare opportunity for visitors to the city to view an incredible range of new work alongside that of some of the best-known practitioners in the world.

An opportunity for audiences to “see, debate, develop and engage in the best of what photography is and what it can be”, FORMAT13 is organised by QUAD (in partnership with Derby City Council, University of Derby and Derby Museums) - the city’s purpose built £10m Arts Centre. FORMAT13 will be officially launched during another of QUAD’s big events for the year - “Elemental Force”, on March 7th.

Derby itself has World Heritage Status for being the birthplace of the world’s first-ever factory, and of mass production. The renowned artist Joseph Wright documented some of the people behind the industrial revolution through his work, which now hangs in the Derby Museum & Art Gallery.

Fittingly, the festival theme for 2013 will focus on several aspects of factory and mass production, through exhibitions, performances and related programmes encompassing a wide array of genres and interests - from street photography, journalism, documentary, art, and film.

As the programme for FORMAT13 notes: “Through eyes of the greatest image-makers of today and tomorrow, the festival will explore global effects and impacts, celebrate innovations and achievements, and discover the complex relationship between workers and machines throughout time. The theme will offer festival visitors a diverse, imaginative, dynamic, poignant and fascinating view on the phenomenon of mechanized production, industry, work and its impact on our lives.”

One of the highlights of the event for visitors to the city will be the FORMAT Photo Market, due to be held over the weekend of March 8th-10th, in Derby’s historic Market Hall.

This promises to be an eclectic and vibrant event, with book publishers, rare book traders, photo magazines, independent photo-book producers, equipment dealers and everything in-between mixing and interacting with the local market traders. The FORMAT Photo Market will be contributing to the market’s history, with photography at centre stage.

FORMAT International Photography Festival was established in 2004, and is now one acknowledged as being one of the world’s leading international contemporary festivals of photography and related media.

For further information about FORMAT13, visit www.formatfestival.com. And for all tourist information, and special accommodation offers for the duration of FORMAT13, please visit www.visitderby.co.uk.

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