

FORMAT 2024

FORMAT International Photography Festival happens every other year in Derby. As a part of FORMAT's off year programme the festival has partnered with LCB Depot to celebrate its 20th anniversary, bringing amazing international photography to Leicester!

Venues across the city are hosting exhibitions from **25th March - 26th April 2024**. Find out more about the exhibition venues and artists involved at <https://lcbdepot.co.uk/event/format24/> or @lcbdepot



The Unmovable Mover

Alessandra Leta

Photographic series

Summary: Crafting a speculative narrative that interlaces found photographs and new images, *The Unmovable Mover* creates a seemingly authentic yet entirely fabricated private past within a factory of spare parts in 1960s Central Europe.

The Unmovable Mover is a speculative reconstruction of a fictitious past, that of a small industrial complex in 1960s Middle Europe, as it was never portrayed. In fact, the series conceptually and aesthetically builds on several black and white photographs found and collected by the artist over the years.

Diverse photographs, whose provenance remains unknown. Through a crafted narrative that seamlessly interlaces the photographic documents with images taken in 2022 and 2023, and by means of speculative storytelling, the project seeks to recreate a detailed history behind an imagined context, that of a factory, constructing a seemingly authentic yet entirely fabricated private past.

The title, *The Unmovable Mover*, is a play on Aristotle's concept of the "unmoved mover", which refers to the prime, unchanging source that sets all things into motion without being moved itself, the ultimate cause and explanation for the motion and change being observed in the world. This series draws parallel with capital being the driving force that fuels and propels various elements within society, while not being inherently affected by the fluctuations it generates. Past century factories, as industrial signposts, have also played a tremendous role in urbanization, migration, and the emergence of distinct working-class identities. The cultural landscape around factories, from the architecture to the social dynamics within production communities, reflects the broader societal impact of the capitalist system. *The Unmovable Mover* visually reinterprets the connections and disconnections between management, labourers, and the finished products within these centres.

The story develops in a fragmentary, non-narrative manner, questioning the ability to reconstruct a reliable recounting of the past. The image-document is instead here proposed as a convergence point for reality and fiction to be activated and reinterpreted in multiple directions. In this way, the project also prompts reflections on the malleability of memory, notions of authenticity, and the sincerity of photographic representation.

All prints: 350 eur (300 gbp), Edition of 5 + 1 A, 30x40 cm (print size), Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta (315g), Fine Art print

Artist Bio

Alessandra Leta (b.1997, Milan) is an Italian visual researcher and photographer.

After receiving a Bachelor's Degree from Brera Academy of Fine Arts, she studied Critical Urbanisms at the University of Basel, Switzerland, where she

currently lives and works. Her artistic practice intersects digital archeology and speculative storytelling as tools for rethinking the past into the present. She researches changes in the contemporary landscape in relation to time and the politics of place, addressing issues related to social spaces such as workplaces, museums, buildings, and cities through the reworking of archival images, staged photography, and fictional elements. In 2022, she won the Carte Blanche Étudiant Award issued by Paris Photo and PICTO Foundation, and her work was exhibited in different photography festivals across Europe. In 2023, she was included in the “30 Under 30” lists by the Italian journal Il Giornale dell’Arte, among other young talents of the Italian cultural scene.

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