

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



Las Encantadas

Alessandro Bo

Photography and audio recordings

THE ENCHANTED

"It's not on any map; real places never are." - Herman Melville, Moby-Dick

Las Encantadas is a photographic project that documents and interprets the myths and legends behind the arrival of the human population to the Galapagos Islands, as well as its complex relationship with the environment.

Discovered by mistake in 1535 by a lost Catholic bishop, "Las Encantadas" earned their nickname among some navigators who could not explain their sudden disappearances when trying to locate them. Several generations survived the harsh conditions marked by an infertile terrain built by lava flows

that no one initially wanted to inhabit, nor did the islands contemplate being inhabited by humans.

Historian and writer, Octavio Latorre bases his stories on the "curse of the turtle", a popular legend that describes the terrible consequences for those who attempt to colonize or exploit this territory. This urban myth, which still survives, is reflected in the little-known social history of the islands, which reveals violent rebellions, disappearances, revenge and murders.

"Few places in the world can present, in strange contrast, so many tragedies in such a reduced space and in such a short time, as the Enchanted Islands." - Latorre, 2006

From a pirate refuge, to a penal colony and one of the most protected places by the scientific community, the Galapagos Islands quickly gained worldwide fame by accommodating hundreds of tourists per day.

This "natural laboratory" is today considered by some settlers as one of the last places capable of sustaining a balanced and harmonious coexistence between human and animal species. But it is also a place where a realm of complexities and unsolved mysteries is hidden. A place where life and death combine, where beauty and brutality coexist. The island becomes a stage where the human spirit is laid bare to confront the deepest fears and the most hidden desires. In this place, echoes of our own weakness and resistance resound, reminding us of the demons that remain within us.

Not for sale

Artist Bio

In my projects I am interested in exploring the complexity of human behavior by questioning and transgressing science, technology, customs, beliefs, legends, myths and influences in a wide diversity of cultures. Photography challenges me to confront places and situations that help me understand in unexpected ways who I am, and where I come from. In my work I tend to create a dialogue between my own images and appropriated images, texts and mixed media.

Mexico City 1982. Winner and current member of the scholarship of the Mexican Art Creators System (Fonca) 2021. Nominated and published by the British Journal of Photography "Ones to watch 2019, and by the New York Times 2020. He has exhibited nationally and internationally and published two books called Smail and Exótica by Inframundo Editorial, La Hydra (2018-19) finalists in the photobook contest TINTA Perú and Photo España Festival (2019). Likewise, part of his work has been published for digital magazines such as (Der Greif Online, It's Nice That, Don't Take Pictures, C41 Magazine and PDN-Street Photography (2015).

Instragram: [@killbo](#)

