

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



Chrysalides

Ilaria Sagaria

Photography

What do we keep from our childhood? What remains of its magic and that existential fragility that seems impossible to hold back?

Since I started working as a teacher I found myself catapulted into an unexpected world. Day after day I began to look at childhood with different eyes: I saw in these little women tender and dark creatures at the same time, like chrysalises heading towards something unknown. Since ancient times, human beings have been fascinated by the mystery of metamorphosis, like a message that has never been deciphered. This work is an attempt to investigate adolescence as a story of being and its change on multiple overlapping levels.

In the world of insects, the chrysalis represents the nymphal stage of butterflies preparing to undergo a metamorphosis; in psychology, however, it implies the infinite potential of being in the phases of its transformations: just as the butterfly emerges at the end of a mysterious process of change, similarly human consciousness goes through various phases, enclosing a process and a history.

Within a poetic and psychological dimension of change, intimacy becomes sensorial trespass: our mind, frame after frame, finds itself involved in a pseudoscientific dimension where enchantment and reality overlap. Dreamlike figures of little girls with porcelain bodies seem to abandon themselves to a mechanism of perpetual temporal dilation capable of softening their entry into adult life. Dreamy looks with a hermetic and intimate flavour, interrupted gestures that give life to those sentimental anxieties inherent in growth.

Different size / different prize: from € 1200 to € 2200

Artist Bio

Ilaria Sagaria is a photographer and visual artist born in Campania, in South Italy. Her work's start from an accurate study of the past, to return a complex, many-layered image of the interior world of the feelings, with a special focus on social and psychological meanings. Her poetics, intimist and visionary, is rich in symbols and artistic echoes that unite past and present generating unusual and unexpected visions. Her works has been exhibited in important Art Galleries and Museums in Italy and abroad, receiving many recognitions and publications. In 2021 she was on show with a solo exhibition at the Uffizi Galleries, where she returned in 2023 by invitation to donate a work to the Museum, intended for the Permanent Collection of Self-portraits. She exhibited in international Foto Festival, as Sifest, Italy (2022); Photolux, Italy (2023); Verzasca Foto Festival, Swisse (2023); Budapest Photo Festival (2023); Photosynthesis e Photopolis Festival, Greece (2023). She won several prizes, as Sette Opere di Misericordia Prize, Italy (2015), the Italian Young Photographer Biennial, (2018); Portfolio Italia (2021), New Talent Prize (2023),

Passepartout Photo Prize (2023). Currently she is working as photography and graphic design teacher in Milan. Photography is her happiness.

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