

# 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 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, bringing amazing international photography to Leicester!

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



## ***The Hawthorn Effect***

Jessie Edwards-Thomas

Installation, Photography, Objects, potentially video

'The Hawthorne effect is a type of human behaviour reactivity in which individuals modify an aspect of their behaviour in response to their awareness of being observed'

The Hawthorne Effect is a multimedia project, utilising found archive, reimagined nursery rhymes and photography to explore a personal response to issues of motherhood in 21st century Britain.

Visions of swollen bodies linger in the domestic space - dead plastic baby dolls gaze longingly to mother mannequin heads. Inanimate figures play family in familiar spaces, trying to fit in no matter how uncomfortable.

This project began as a response to the reality of attempting to fit my female body into a system of machinery that seems to acknowledge the realities of bodies, care and love, less and less. I lost myself in machine worlds of A.I, programs, recipe books and self-defence how-to's from the 70s; I wandered far away into empty countryside. We are living in a time crossing multiple worlds. How does the family album look today and what will it look like tomorrow?

I cast my eyes across wet grassy moors constantly thinking about how my fleshy animalistic body will fit into a possibly yet inconceivable future. What will Mother look like? How will care be valued?

This work is a personal exploration of my own relationship to ideas of motherhood. This is an absurd piece of work that wishes to reflect the absurdity of our lives we find ourselves in and potential future.

Price can be discussed

### **Artist Bio**

I am a creative practitioner, primarily concerned with ideas of care, belonging and community. Themes of alienation and political structural interrogation are key to my practice. I utilise the what-ifs of fiction and imagination to explore these ideas through storytelling.

Deeply connected to celebrating community, I use photography to build moments of connection and conversation, particularly in supporting marginalised voices. My practice has developed through my experience working in the homeless pathway and the mental health sector. For example I was commissioned by The Bristol Photo festival, Arnolfini & Golden Key to work collaboratively with people experiencing homelessness to explore issues of housing & wellbeing in Bristol. This was exhibited at The Arnolfini, Bristol, in 2021.

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