

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



Messengers and Promises

Lesha Pavlov

Photography

In Norilsk there are many pipes, strange stones underfoot and dove-colored clouds. People are digging up valuable resources from nearby mountains. For centuries, shamans climbed there to recharge with the energy of the Sun, which almost never sets in the short northern summer.

About ten years ago, pigeons were noticed here, inhabiting a territory previously inaccessible to them due to the harsh climate. In local beliefs, the

most important place is occupied by winged demiurges. At the same time, images of synanthropic species, including pigeons, are not found for obvious reasons. John Berger wrote that animals are able to surprise us with secrets addressed specifically to humans. What if the moment has come when we should try to decipher this messages?

In the process of reflection, I direct my gaze to the environment. And send my thoughts to the future. The camera in my hands tangles everything. The resulting photographs depict a world that exists everywhere and nowhere, today and tomorrow. A harmless bird captured in this way frightens me.

Pigeon doesn't really care. It lives where it lives.

I was offering several photographs from the project for sale at \$800 per print

Artist Bio

My name is Lesha.

I think about decoloniality, my roots and non-humans.

My works were awarded at competitions and exhibited in Russia and Europe.

I was detained for my anti-war position in Russia and was forced to leave it.

Now in Tbilisi, Georgia.

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