

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



“Beyond the Wild - the tamed Land”: Two southern German villages in transition, between agriculture and urbanization

Lu Mazen

Photography. Video is optional

My current project deals with the relationship between people and nature, with a photographic focus on the village in transition. There is a personal reason for this - I grew up in the village. In addition, the topics of nature and the environment are very close to my heart and have a high social relevance:

"Land use has remained largely stable over the last 12,000 years, but began to change radically from the 1800s until around 1950...". The near-natural, "wild" areas are becoming smaller and smaller. The proportion of people living in small villages fell from 76% to 17% between 1871 and 2000. Only 2% of Germans still live from agriculture. As a result, villages and our relationship

with nature have changed massively. This is exactly where I start with my photo project and investigate which and how much relationship to nature is (still) present in seemingly natural village life and what consequences this can have for our lives.

I am creating a visual portrait of rural areas in (southern) Germany and how they have changed over time. On walks, I explore this space of life and experience, which is shaped by the landscape around it. I look at architecture, gardens and fields and children's play areas.

Where are there still traces of rural life, where are we already in the middle of the suburbs? I sense an ecosystem and the fine lines between tradition and progress. On the one hand, this ecosystem is a benefit-driven economic system and ensures our survival. On the other hand, it is closely interwoven with feelings of belonging to place, time and a community, as it is for me. Personal memories of my childhood in the countryside flow into it, the emotion associated with nature is a key to human interaction with the land and the regional structures of human communities. If this relationship is lost, the survival of man and nature is at stake.

450 Pounds per Print

Artist Bio

I am a photo artist from Munich and the Black Forest. Identity, memory and the everyday are central to my work. Places, landscape, nature and man-made objects characterize my work.

After studying at top universities in Germany, UK and Canada (MPhil) I traveled in Europe, Australia, America and Asia. Master classes with ICP, Magnum, J. Schulz, S. Brass, J.E. Atwood, N. Havette and JC. Bourcat. Summer Academy Salzburg, residency at the NY School of Visual Arts and WSG in the UK.

I have participated in numerous exhibitions at home and abroad, at festivals such as Reclaim/UK or Kuala Lumpur as well as at galleries such as Ingo Seufert Munich, f3 Berlin, Galerie Litvai Landshut or Tina Goncalvez in

Portugal; In cultural centers in Mexico and Portugal as well as companies such as Taylor Wessing in Munich.

In 2021 my video was shown in the projection at the Fondation Manuel Rivera-Ortiz at the Arles Photo Festival. Since 2022, more and more exhibitions in American galleries such as Real Tinsel, Milwaukee or Satchel Projects and Studio 9D in New York. Through galleries I was represented at art fairs in Innsbruck, Malaga and Granada, at the Frauenmuseum Bonn, ArtMuc and the Milan AAF.

In Germany, my works have been shown in Gedok galleries in Freiburg, Karlsruhe and Berlin. I am regularly represented in art associations such as Rosenheim, Wasserburg, Aichach, Bayreuth, Bad Wörishofen, Haslach and many more. My works can be found in private and public collections

I have successfully contributed to various art awards, was Bronze Award Winner at Px3/Paris 2015 and 3rd prize winner of the Alzey-Worms Art Prize 2016. I was a finalist at Premio Arte Laguna (2015), Premio Celeste (2015), Premio Lynx (2017), The Julia Cameron Gala Award (2016, 2020), ARTIG Kunstpreis des Kunstvereins Kempten (2016), Südwestdeutscher Kunstpreis (2018) and Swiss Foto Club Award 2019. Shortlisted Premio Celeste (2017), Dotart honorable mention 2015 (street photography) and Sipa first selection 2016.

For my book project Beyond the wild I received a shortlisting at the Belfast festival 2022 and the Urban Photo Book Award Trieste 2022. The book False Moons was exhibited as a finalist at the photo festival 9th rendez-vous images, Strasbourg and is published by a Munich publishing house.

Contributions to photo books by international publishers and magazines such as f-stop, Spotlight and 9 Lives Magazine.

Member of Gedok, WSG/UK and Teleportal/USA.

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