

# 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



## ***New Models***

Mauro Antonio Barreto

Photography

New Models is a series of portraits of young people made in fast-growing Southern cities such as Nashville, TN and Austin, TX. The portraits depict knowing, intimate encounters between two people, and are charged with yearning and desire, clouded by melancholia, angst, and anachronism, and contoured by melodrama and affect.

The work begins on Instagram, where I find models to photograph, asking one individual to invite a friend to the shoot, forming a pair. We go back-and-forth: I suggest a pose or gesture or expression for them to repeat, the three

of us only partially communicating, and together intuiting our way to the final composition.

A dim understanding of the circumstances portrayed—a breakup, a mending of a relationship, unrequited love—heightens the photographs’ sense of ambiguity. Have the emotions peaked, or is the drama still swelling? Dressed in vintage clothing, posed in nondescript settings, the figures are difficult to place in a specific era, as if they have stepped outside of time. In my work, I emphasize photography’s lack of a before and after to create a sense of a perpetual now, a sustained note, everlasting feeling.

The portraits show young people longing for their own youth, for its beauty, its idealism, and its messy, intense, and contradictory feelings. I see mourning youth’s passing and the practice of photography itself as twinned phenomena. Photographs stir emotions in us because they depict the loss of the present to the past. Similarly, youth is perceived most consciously, most achingly, once it has already begun to fade.

£2250

### **Artist Bio**

Mauro Antonio Barreto (b. 1987, East Stroudsburg, PA) has presented his work in solo exhibitions at The Java Project (Brooklyn, NY), Random Sample (Nashville, TN), and Spellerberg Projects (Lockhart, TX), and his work is in the permanent collection of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art (New Orleans, LA).

Barreto earned a BA in art from Yale University in 2009 and an MFA in photography from the University of Hartford in 2021. He is currently an adjunct professor at Lipscomb University and Middle Tennessee State University, and a member of the artist collective Tiger Strikes Asteroid. Barreto lives and works in Nashville, TN.

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