

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



The Fish Dies By Its Mouth / El pez muere por la boca

Santiago Escobar-Jaramillo

Photography & video

The Fish Dies By Its Mouth / El pez muere por la boca reflects on the resilience and resistance of peoples in contexts of drug trafficking and fishing. The beach line connects the sea (or river) with the continent (or mainland) where amphibious communities inhabit with long traditions of music, dance, hairstyles, games and celebration. Also of agriculture, gastronomy, tourism, whale watching and nature. This peace is permeated by paramilitary presence, violence and drug trafficking.

Drug traffickers need access to the coast to get their product out to sea. During these trips in speedboats, they are intercepted by the Colombian Navy or naval force, and their way of escaping is to drop the cargo to make the boat lighter. Fishermen from towns such as Rincón del Mar, Sucre, in the Atlantic, or Bahía Solano, Chocó, in the Pacific, occasionally find packages that can mean a year's income or one-week rumbas. Some succumb to this

pressure; others stand firm in the face of the onslaught of illegality. Such macabre characters as Pablo Escobar or "Cadena" reigned in these lands and conditioned the daily life and rules of the community.

"The inhabitants of Rincón del Mar remember that more than twenty years ago the regime of life imposed on them by the paramilitaries was so fearful and cruel that on a whim of Rodrigo Mercado, alias "Cadena", an elementary school was knocked down so that it would no longer block the view of the sea from his house, located in the center of that place". Pablo Escobar, for his part, ordered the construction of hotels in Isla Palma and Bahía Solano to stay during his visits, as a summer resort.

The Fish Dies By Its Mouth / El pez muere por la boca is a participatory and intervention project in which the community is an active part in the creation of the images. The contrasts between traditions (peaceful states) and armed pressure (paramilitary and drug trafficking groups) are expressed in different actions, landscapes, bodies and objects. Everyday life intermingles with the construction of the scenes. Here, the performative act is confused with the swaying of reality, as a song to that undefined limit between sea and land, between legality and prohibition.

Between 2016 and 2023, I went on fishing trips with my father, my brother, my uncle and my cousin. We all have the last name Escobar. Our link has nothing to do with Pablo, but with the sea, the land and his sons: Federico, Deivis, Jolly and Ñato, friends of these resilient communities.

940 USD

Artist Bio

Architect, National University of Colombia. Best Graduation Project 2005-2006. Colfuturo Scholarship 2007. MA (merit) Photography and Urban Cultures, Goldsmiths College, University of London. Editor at Raya Editorial and AÑZ, Fotografía Expandida de Latinoamérica. Visual curator of the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition, Colombia. Co-founder of 20Fotógrafos and RadioFoto. Fujifilm's X-Photographer. NFT Resident of Voice & PhotoVogue 2022. First Prize of Encuentros Abiertos-Festival de la Luz, Argentina; and Future Memories-



IDARTES. First Publication Prize FUTURA Felifa 2018. Winner of POY Latam “Nuestra Mirada”, Photo Galleries Call Centro de Fotografía de Montevideo-Montevideo, SMArt Program Artistic Residency 2023-Switzerland, Return2Ithaca 2023-Greece, 2024 Ras Al Khaimah Fine Arts Festival-United Arab Emirates, Photolucida’s Critical Mass 2023 TOP 50, PhMuseum Days 2023-Bologna, Helsinki Photo Festival 2022-Finland, FOTOFESTIWAL and Photo Match 2023-Poland. Finalist Aperture Portfolio Prize 2023, 2023 BUP Book Award, First PhotoBook Paris Photo/Aperture con "Esos que Saben" de Oscar B. Castillo/Raya Editorial, FUTURA Felifa, Feria de Fotolibros de Autor (FOLA/TURMA) Prize, TINTA Photo Lima, FIEBRE Photobook Dummy Award 2017, Viena Photobook Review 2017 and FLIP Photobook Award 2016. Published photobooks: White Elephant, LUCÍA, Patria o Muerte, Colombia, Tierra de Luz (Land of Light). Joop Swart Masterclass 2020 Mentor. Nominator of "Joop Swart Masterclass" and "6x6 Global Talent" - World Press Photo, "Ones to Watch" – BJP, Foam Paul Huf Award 2023 and Portafolios Gráficos de revista El Malpensante. Guest interviewer for Bronx Documentary Center Latin American Foto Festival and Baudó Agencia Pública.

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