

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



River Runs Violet

Sumi Anjuman

Photography

In my state, Bangladesh, growing up as a woman entails navigating a maze of a complex patriarchal compass. Along that way, gender minorities constantly encounter an assortment of fears.

With such a backdrop, Bangladesh is experiencing on average nearly 4 women, girls, and children being raped daily as rape incidents are on the rise. Social scientists, lawyers, and field-level crime investigators found that the culture of impunity, illegal use of power, political failures, lack of accountability of concerned agencies, and decay of social values are

contributing to the formation of rape culture. In this terrifying manifestation of reality, even our unconscious is possessed by the fear of being raped.

At such an intersection, Zana (pseudonym) and I engaged in an idiosyncratic conversation named 'River Runs Violet', to form a non-violent protest opposing the root of 'Rape Culture' in Bangladesh that has flourished over time. Zana's empirical ideations as a rape sufferer, as well as my quest as another woman growing up in the same milieu, have transfigured our reciprocities into a multivocal visual correspondence in which responses from each end take diverse approaches yet they synchronically visually interrogate this specific context.

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Artist Bio

My odyssey as a woman in Bangladesh's Muslim conservative socio-cultural structure, like the majority of women in that paradigm, is a constant conflict. And, such empirical instances have benefited me in intuiting gender-specific oppression and agony of that society on an equivalent magnitude. In consequence, my artistic practice aims to engage in a non-violent discourse within our society to tackle those phenomena forthrightly.

In order to achieve such a pursuit, my practice's aesthetic fosters a poetic yet magic realism fabric by integrating fictitious photographs, hand-stitched with re-photographic approaches, and archives. In parallel, my multivocal methodology embodies the concept of 'healing through creation', and that collective artistic eventuality born of that concept often strives to create a strong cerebral as well as emotive impact on the onlooker.

Sumi is currently based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. She recently completed a master's degree in 'Photography & Society' from the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague, The Netherlands. Previously, she acquired a three-year diploma in 'Photography' from Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

On top of that, Sumi's artistic endeavors have earned her numerous accolades, such as the Prince Claus Seed Award (2021), the Pride Photo

Award Winner (2020), the British Journal of Photography's Ones to Watch (2020), and many more. In addition, she had exhibitions of her work at the Dhaka Art Summit (2023), Gare Du Nord Station, France (2022), Chobi Mela, Bangladesh (2021), and Noorderlicht Photo Festival (2021).

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

