

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



Gesar

Wu Hao

Photography

“King Gesar” is the most well-known Tibetan ethnic epic in China and the longest of its kind in human history, it tells the legend of the King Gesar, a half-human half deification hero who was the reincarnation of Padmasambhava in Tibetan Buddhism. He defeated evil demons and enemies, saved many lives of its people, and unified a hundred of tribes into the Kingdom of Ling. Narrated and inherited by charismatic minstrel and Tibetan Buddhist Lama since A.D.11th Century, the epic survived numerous social revolutions of modern China, it reflects history, social-political transition and people's way of life in the Tibetan Plateau.

From 2017 onward, I have been tracing many clues from the epic of King Gesar, travelled to locations and relics in Qinghai, Sichuan and Tibet, which

believed to be the birthplace of the epic, exploring the boundary both geographically and mentally between surreal myth and current reality.

The project Gesar is aim to document the spiritual and complex socio-political landscape of modern Tibetan ethnic group in western China, base on metaphors from the ancient epic. To put questions on how people looks at the past of their heritages? In what way shapes their ethnic identity? If the epic was the narrative of ancient tibetan world, what is the story now for the new era and generation? What has changed from lifestyle and religious beliefs, to relationship within their own community, on what remain or lost for people who live in this territory by constantly social transition and modernization.

750 euro

Artist Bio

Wu Hao is an award winning documentary photographer, filmmaker and visual artist, a curious human being who still struggling to see the world around him with keen eyes. He was born in Nanning, currently based in Beijing, China. He specialises in documentary, reportage, portraiture. His long term photographic-based projects focus on social-political issue and transition, ethnic identity, people's way of living by constantly changing social environment and their dilemma. His works has been published and exhibited internationally.

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