



PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday, February 25 2009

Photo collectives' debut at Format09 signals emergence of collective practice among aspiring British photographers

Photo-Festivals, in collaboration with **Format International Photography Festival** (Format09), will for the first time showcase works of five photo collectives at this year's Derby exhibition from March 5 to April 4.

Hitherto unheard of and neglected in the UK, this first ever feature of photo collectives recognises the growing practice of group cooperation among aspiring British photographers as a way to make a more meaningful impact with their work in the photography scene.

"This is a very exciting time for emerging photographers in the UK as they explore new ways of cooperation within the framework of collectives. Pooling resources as a collective not only gives them more visibility but it also allows for exchange and discussion which leads to groundbreaking work both as individuals and as a whole," said Yasmina Reggad, director of Photo-Festivals and curator of the exhibition. "Photo-Festivals is proud to be able to play a part in bringing these collectives to an international stage such as Format09."

Dubbed the **Collectives Encounter**, images by four British collectives commissioned for the month-long festival will be on display. Visitors are expected to be enthralled by the collectives' visual rendition of "**Time**".

Scheduled to exhibit are the collectives, **ANRA**, **Documentography**, **Latitude Photographers** and **Unseen**.

In addition to the four, the spotlight will shine on special guest **Cia de Foto**, one of the most innovative collectives in Brazil. Formed in 2003, Cia de Foto is a unique model of the photo collective. Cia de Foto's presentation of stills in a cinematic format is an example of synergy and a narration of beauty, innocence, and kindred love.

A **collectives round table**, to be held on **7th March** in conjunction with the visual display will take an objective and critical view of what artwork means in a collective context. The panel will also discuss the emerging practice of forming collectives in the UK and what different perspectives such communal cooperation offers to photographers.

This “collective” debate will continue in London by a panel discussion at **The Photographers’ Gallery on 11th March**.

“Collectives emerged in Europe as a reaction to the contraction of the market and a reaction against big agencies to protect photographers’ identity. Professionally, photographers benefit from collaborative work as they evolve in a context of positive emulation. Artistically, their photographic practice is certainly challenged by the potential of the collective artwork”, says Reggad.

Notes to Editors:

About Photo-Festivals:

Photo-Festivals is a London-based non-profit organisation committed to promoting diversity, intercultural dialogue and exchange among photographers.

With its belief that mobility is intrinsic to the creative process, Photo-Festivals organises and curates unique events, allowing artistic minds to meet and interact for an enriching experience.

About Format09 :

Format is one of the UK’s leading contemporary photography and media festivals. The festival celebrates the wealth of contemporary practice in international photography. Format is the place to see an incredible range of new work alongside the best-known practitioners of the world.

www.formatfestivals.com

For further information contact :

Yasmina Reggad

Tel: +44 (0) 795 275 8881

Email: info@photo-festivals.com

Web: www.photo-festivals.com / www.foto-festivals.com