

## **DANA LIXENBERG**

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### **IMPERIAL COURTS: 1993–2013**

**I**mperial Courts, an expansive housing project in Watts, California (Los Angeles County), with nearly 500 units, has a history of gang violence and lack of resources. Outsiders are not always welcome at Imperial Courts, but photographer Dana Lixenberg was invited back, time and again.

In the early 1990s, Dutch-born Lixenberg was on assignment in Los Angeles to photograph South Central in the aftermath of the L.A. Riots. There, she met Tony Bogard, a leader of the PJ Watts Crips who became an important mediator of gang reconciliation. Through this introduction, Lixenberg began photographing gang members at Imperial Courts. Soon, Lixenberg's artistic focus expanded, as she began to capture on film many of the residents and their environment.

Twenty years later, Lixenberg still photographs her original subjects at Imperial Courts, many of whom she now knows personally. In Lixenberg's stark and intimate portraits of the residents, poignant stories are told. We see Selena as a young girl in the nineties and meet her daughter, Sa'Marra, two decades later. We come to know Little Tony, from his fierce gaze as a young man, to his memorial site, adorned with cards and flowers.

In this breathtaking portfolio, Lixenberg narrates the lives of Imperial Courts with grace and intimacy. A study catalyzed by one of America's most tumultuous events, transforms through Lixenberg's lens into an evocative account of an enduring community.



*Dedrick, 2009*



*Untitled IX, 2010*



*Nu Nu, 2009*



*Gloria and YG, 1993*



*YG, 2012*



*Fresh, Real, Flave, and 4Doe (Real Fresh Crew), 2008*



*Dannell, Cai, and Baby Kaili, 2013*

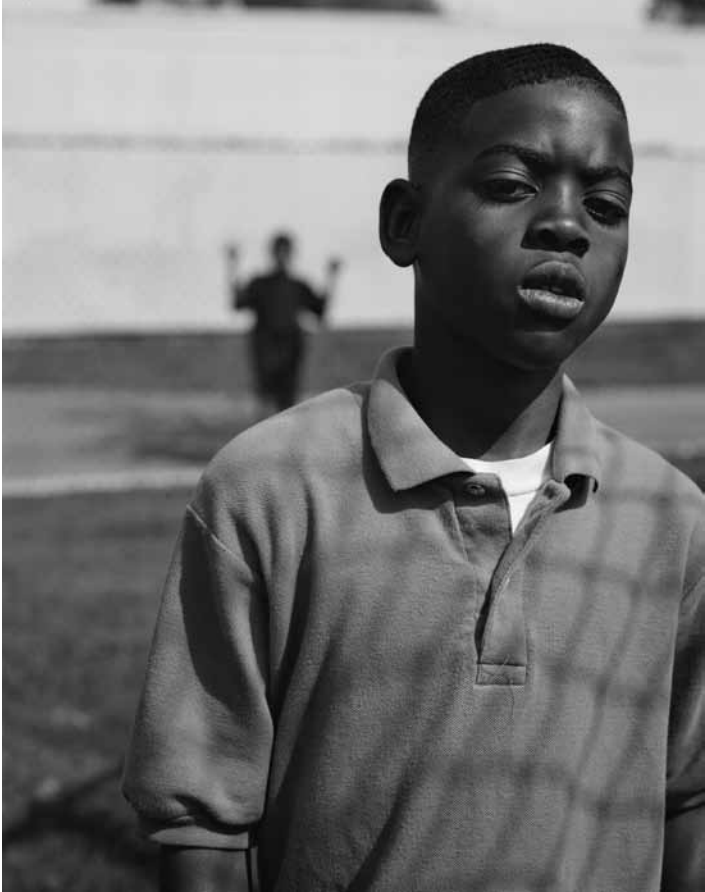




*Selena, 1993*



*Sa'Marra (Selena's daughter), 2012*



*Tony, 1993*



*Tony's Memorial, 2010*



*J 50, 2008*