

DANA LIXENBERG

IMPERIAL COURTS 1993 – 2015

Paris Photo 2017 Booth C39

Nov 09 – 12, 2017

GRIMM is pleased to present a solo booth by Dana Lixenberg at Paris Photo 2017. We will be exhibiting various works from her extensive series *Imperial Courts, 1993-2015*, which was awarded the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2017.

On Friday 10 November at 3 pm, a book signing session by Dana Lixenberg will take place at our booth C39.

Lixenberg's *Imperial Courts* project tracks the changing face of a small, underserved community in South Central Los Angeles, California. Lixenberg portrays the neighborhood and its residents through 393 black and white photographs, which were compiled in a monograph published by ROMA Publications in 2015. The publication was nominated for several photo book awards and received the biennial Dutch Photo Book Prize 2017.

In 1992, Lixenberg traveled to South Central Los Angeles to photograph a magazine story on the aftermath of the riots that erupted following the acquittal of four LAPD officers who were filmed brutally beating Rodney King. What Lixenberg encountered inspired her to return to the area and eventually led her to the *Imperial Courts* housing project in Watts.

Beginning in 1993 and continuing until the spring of 2015, Lixenberg gradually created a collaborative and expansive portrait of the community of *Imperial Courts*. The work cumulatively marks the generational passing of time as sons become fathers, daughters become mothers; and parents, neighbors and friends pass silently into the grave or to jail. Electing to face away from the spectacle of destruction, Lixenberg looks towards those whose lives typically receive public notice only in the event of calamity. Her portraiture addresses the individuated characteristics of the residents with delicacy and specificity, reflecting a series of individuals who collectively constitute an evolving community.

Over the years Lixenberg expanded the project from photography to moving image, producing a series of videos in *Imperial Courts*, which are carefully edited into a 69 minute three-channel video installation. The video immerses us in the dense fabric of daily life in this small housing project through an interlinking chain of vignettes accompanied by an environmental score of street sounds, conversations, ice



Dana Lixenberg, *Toussaint*, 1993, Gelatin silver print

cream trucks and the persistent sound of LAPD helicopters flying overhead. The video *Imperial Courts* (2015) will be exhibited at GRIMM New York this winter.

Imperial Courts is a body of work that frames the continuity of a community against the permanence of an inner-city landscape, each of which we discover through Lixenberg's tender, elegant and visceral work.

About the artist

Dana Lixenberg (b. 1964 Amsterdam, the Netherlands) studied photography at the London College of Printing from 1984 to 1986 and at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam from 1987 until 1989. Lixenberg pursues long-term personal projects with a primary focus on individuals and communities on the margins of society. This is evidenced in her series *Jeffersonville, Indiana* (2005), a collection of landscapes and portraits of the small town's homeless population, and in *The Last Days of Shishmaref* (2008) which documents an Inupiaq community on an eroding island of the coast of Alaska. Furthermore, she has had an extensive editorial career photographing many influential cultural figures, largely in the United States. The power of her work arises in the intimacy and the absence of social stereotyping.

not for publication

For more information, interview and royalty free image requests please contact our Amsterdam press office:
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Dana Lixenberg, *Untitled (birthday party)*, 2009, Gelatin silver print

Lixenberg has exhibited at museums and institutes such as: Centre Photographique, Rouen; MMK, Frankfurt; The Photographer's Gallery, London; Busan Biennial, Busan; Huis Marseille, Amsterdam; Kunsthal, Rotterdam; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; FOAM, Amsterdam; Frans Halsmuseum De Hallen, Haarlem; Museum for Photography, The Hague; LACPS/Knowtribe, Los Angeles.

Her work can be found in collections of among others Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Deutsche Börse, Frankfurt; Frans Halsmuseum De Hallen, Haarlem; Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar; FNAC, Ivry-sur-Seine; and Huis Marseille, Amsterdam. Publications include *Imperial Courts 1993-2015*, Roma Publications, Amsterdam (2015); *Set Amsterdam*, Roma Publications, Amsterdam (2011); *The Last Days of Shishmaref*, Post Editions & Paradox, Rotterdam (2008); *Jeffersonville, Indiana*, Artimo Foundation, Amsterdam (2005); *Offstage*, Het Nationaal Ballet / Dutch National Ballet, Amsterdam (2001); *united states*, Artimo Foundation, Amsterdam (2001).

Current and upcoming exhibitions:

Imperial Courts 1993-2015

Centre Photographique Pole Image Haute-Normandie, Rouen (France)

14 Oct, 2017 – 27 Jan, 2018

Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize

Aperture Foundation, New York (United States)

16 Nov, 2017 – Jan 11, 2018

Imperial Courts (2015, video installation)

GRIMM, New York (United States)

14 Dec, 2017 – 28 Jan, 2018

Solo Exhibition

GRIMM, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

07 Apr, 2018 – 12 May, 2018

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