

# DANA LIXENBERG

## unseen BOOTH 03

20-22 September 2019

Opening: 19 September 2019

Westergas, Amsterdam (NL)

Dana Lixenberg (1964, NL) will present a portfolio of ten color photographs titled *Imperial Courts, Portra NC 160, 2008-2009*.

The photographs are the result of a brief venture into the use of color film while working on her renowned black-and-white series *Imperial Courts 1993-2015*. This is the first time the work in color is shown.

"In 1993, during the highly charged aftermath of the Rodney King riots, I made the first series of portraits in *Imperial Courts*. It took me fifteen years to return with my 4x5" field camera. I knew I wanted to continue the project in black and white to avoid categorizing the photographs in "then" and "now", to unite the photographs from different years and make it a cohesive series. However I felt I should at least see if I could integrate the use of color into the project, especially because of the vibrant presence of color in this community, the ubiquitous pastel-colored housing blocks, faded by the Californian sun, flashy cars, blue or pale skies, foliage in various hues of green.

So in 2008 and 2009 I loaded a couple of my film cassettes with *Portra NC 160* film and made a small series of photographs that show a deliberate contemplation of color in *Imperial Courts*. After consideration I decided these images would not be a part of the definitive project and I decided to continue working solely in black-and-white.

Now, years later, they serve as a subtle record of the passage of time in *Imperial Courts*. Although much has stayed the same, life always moves. The housing blocks have received a fresh coat of paint, a slightly different tone of *Imperial blue*, the maroon color mostly eliminated. The tattoo around Cleo's navel has collapsed in his expanded gut. The baby who's imminent arrival was celebrated at Tish's babyshower has entered her teens. Old school R&B and soul blasting from the speakers in the back of Auntie Fay's truck, besides hip-hop and salsa a staple in the community, linking present to past."

-Dana Lixenberg, excerpt from *Photopaper 29|30*, Kassel (2018)



Dana Lixenberg | part of the portfolio *Imperial Courts, Portra NC 160, 2008-2009* | 2019

### About the artist:

Dana Lixenberg (1964, NL) is a Dutch artist living and working in Amsterdam (NL) and New York (US). She studied photography at the London College of Printing from 1984 to 1986, and at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam from 1987 until 1989. The power of her work arises from its intimacy and the absence of social stereotyping. The series *Imperial Courts 1993-2015*, her most extensive body of work to date, was awarded the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize in 2017.

Lixenberg has exhibited at Het HEM, Zaandam (NL); TENT, Rotterdam (NL); Mai Manó Ház, Budapest (HU); Belfast Exposed, Belfast (UK); Aperture Foundation, New York (US); Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam (NL); Centre Photographique, Rouen (FR); MMK, Frankfurt (DE); The Photographers' Gallery, London (UK); Busan Biennale (KR); Huis Marseille, Amsterdam (NL); De Kunsthal, Rotterdam (NL); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (NL); FOAM, Amsterdam (NL); Frans Halsmuseum De Hallen, Haarlem (NL); and LACP, Los Angeles (US) among others.

Lixenberg currently has a solo exhibition on view at Fotohof, Salzburg (AT) and will have forthcoming exhibitions at GRIMM, New York (US), Het Nieuwe Instituut, Rotterdam (NL), Danziger Gallery, New York (US) and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (NL).

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For more information, interview and royalty free image requests please contact our Amsterdam press office:  
press@grimmgallery.com +31 (0) 20 675 24 65

202 Bowery  
New York 10012  
United States

Frans Halsstraat 26  
1072BR Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

Keizersgracht 241  
1016EA Amsterdam  
GRIMM Gallery, Inc.

Tel +1 (646) 484-5223  
info@grimmgallery.com  
www.grimmgallery.com

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