

DANA LIXENBERG WINS THE DEUTSCHE BÖRSE PHOTOGRAPHY FOUNDATION PRIZE 2017

18 May 2017

Dutch photographer DANA LIXENBERG has won the twentieth edition of the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize at London's Photographers' Gallery, for her multifaceted portrait of the residents and community of the Imperial Courts housing project in Watts, Los Angeles.

She was announced as the **2017 winner** of the prestigious **£30,000 prize** by broadcaster and writer, **Ekow Eshun**, at a special award ceremony at **The Photographers' Gallery**, on Thursday 18th May.

Lixenberg started her project **IMPERIAL COURTS (1993 - 2015)** after the Los Angeles riots and has revisited and expanded her project over the following twenty-two years. In contrast to the often one dimensional and sensationalised media coverage, Lixenberg takes a more controlled and formal photographic approach, "slowing things down" - as she puts it. The project includes images from different years that follow the trajectories of individual stories. Over time, lives have been lost, people have disappeared or gone to jail, and the children of early photographs, have grown up and had children of their own. In later visits, Lixenberg started using audio and video recording to document the conversations and specific soundtrack of the neighbourhood. In this way, Imperial Courts charts the effects of a complex and evocative passage of time on an underserved community.

Imperial Courts (1993-2015), is published by Roma Publications (2015); the project also exists online as a web documentary at <http://www.imperialcourtsproject.com/>, a multimedia space developed with collaborator Eefje Blankevoort.

The Photographers' Gallery
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Brett Rogers, Director, The Photographers' Gallery and non-voting chair of the 2017 jury, said: *"We are delighted to announce this year's winner as Dana Lixenberg. This comprehensive and measured series impressed all of the judges through its affirmation of photography's power to address important ideas through pure image. Lixenberg's work is simultaneously understated and emphatic, reflecting a cool sobriety, which allows her subjects to own the gaze and their contexts without sentimentality or grandiosity. Originally presented in book format, each portrait operates as a self-contained story. Dana Lixenberg has expertly harnessed the photographic medium to rethink stereotypical*

representation and empower a community with direct voice and visibility.”

Anne-Marie Beckmann, Director, Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation, said: “We would like to congratulate Dana Lixenberg as the winner of the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2017 and also thank The Photographers’ Gallery for the terrific partnership we have enjoyed for many years. On its’ twentieth anniversary, we are proud that the Prize has become one of the most prestigious awards in contemporary art. We are particularly pleased that the exhibition is touring internationally – and that it will open at Frankfurt’s MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst this summer and subsequently at the Aperture Foundation in New York - the first US exhibition of the Prize.”

The members of the **Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2017 jury** were: **Susan Bright**, Curator; **Pieter Hugo**, Artist; **Karolina Lewandowska**, Curator of Photography, Centre Pompidou, Paris; **Anne-Marie Beckmann**, Director, Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation and **Brett Rogers**, Director, The Photographers’ Gallery as the non-voting chair.

Dana Lixenberg (b. 1964, Netherlands) lives and works in New York and Amsterdam. She studied photography at the London College of Printing and at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam. Lixenberg works on long-term projects, mostly focused on individuals and communities on the margins of society. These include *Jeffersonville, Indiana*, a collection of landscapes and portraits of the small town’s homeless population, and *The Last Days of Shishmaref*, which documents an Inupiaq community on an eroding island off the coast of Alaska. The power of her work is found in the intimacy of her images and the absence of social stereotyping. She has gained international recognition through her work for publications such as Vibe, The New York Times Magazine, The New Yorker, Newsweek and Rolling Stone. Her work has been widely exhibited and can be found in prominent collections. In addition to Imperial Courts 1993-2015 (2015), her books include *Set Amsterdam* (2011), *The Last Days of Shishmaref* (2008), *Jeffersonville, Indiana* (2005) and *united states* (2001). She is represented by Grimm Gallery in Holland (www.grimmgallery.com).

All the nominated projects from the shortlisted artists for 2017, also including works by **Sophie Calle**, **Awoiska van der Molen** and **Taiyo Onorato & Nico Krebs** - will remain on display at The Photographers’ Gallery until **11 June 2017**.

The exhibition then begins its tour to the **MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst in Frankfurt** from 29 June until 17 September 2017 and subsequently travels to **Aperture Foundation in New York** from 16 November 2017 until 11 January 2018. This exciting development marks the **first US exhibition of the prize in its twenty-year history**.

The **Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize** is an annual award established by The Photographers’ Gallery, London, in 1997 and in partnership with the Deutsche Börse Group since 2005. Since 2016 it has been awarded together with the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation, a non-profit organisation specifically focused on the collecting, exhibiting and promoting of contemporary photography. The **£30,000 prize** rewards a living photographer, of any nationality, for a specific body of work in an exhibition or publication format in Europe, which is felt to have significantly contributed to the medium of photography between 1 October 2015 and 30 September 2016.

2017 marks twenty years of the Prize and reaffirms its position as a barometer of talent, excellence and innovation. The award remains committed to showcasing photographers and works of all genres and approaches, which exemplify exceptional viewpoints and bold practice.



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Press information

For further press information and image requests for exhibitions please contact:

Grace O'Connor or Emma Pettit at Margaret on +44 (0) 20 7739 8203 or email grace@margaretlondon.com or emma@margaretlondon.com

For general enquiries about The Photographers' Gallery, including Print Sales, Bookshop and Archive, please contact the press office on + 44 (0) 207 087 9346 / press@tpg.org.uk

For press information about Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation please contact:

Leticia Adam on +49 (0) 69 21 11 27 66 or email leticia.adam@deutsche-boerse.com

Notes for Editors

The Photographers' Gallery

The Photographers' Gallery opened in 1971 in Great Newport Street, London, as the UK's first independent gallery devoted to photography. It was the first public gallery in the UK to exhibit many key names in international photography, including Juergen Teller, Robert Capa, Sebastião Salgado and Andreas Gursky. The Gallery has also been instrumental in establishing contemporary British photographers, including Martin Parr and Corinne Day. In 2009, the Gallery moved to 16 – 18 Ramillies Street in Soho, the first stage in its plan to create a 21st century home for photography. Following an eighteen months long redevelopment project, the Gallery reopened to the public in 2012. The success of The Photographers' Gallery over the past four decades has helped to establish photography as a recognised art form, introducing new audiences to photography and championing its place at the heart of visual culture.

www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk

Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation

The Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation is a Frankfurt-based non-profit organisation. The foundation activities focus on collecting, exhibiting and promoting contemporary photography. Deutsche Börse began to build up its collection of contemporary photography in 1999. Art Collection Deutsche Börse now comprises more than 1,700 works by over 120 international artists. Expanding the Art Collection Deutsche Börse is one of the key aims of the foundation. The collection and a changing exhibition programme are open to the public. Together with The Photographers' Gallery in London, the foundation awards the renowned Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize each year. Other focal points include promoting new talent, supporting exhibition projects of international museums and institutions, and the expansion of platforms for academic discussion about the medium. Further information is available at www.deutscheboersephotographyfoundation.org.

The Photography Prize History

Founded in 1997 by The Photographers' Gallery, and now in its twentieth year, the Prize has become one of the most prestigious international arts awards and has launched and established the careers of many photographers over the years. Previously known as the Citigroup Photography Prize, the Gallery has been collaborating with Deutsche Börse Group as title sponsors since 2005. In 2016 the Prize was retitled as the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize following the establishment of the foundation as a non-profit organisation dedicated to the collection, exhibition and promotion of contemporary photography. Winner of the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2016 was Trevor Paglen for his exhibition The Octopus at Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, Germany (20 June - 30 August 2015). Past winners include Paul Graham, Juergen Teller, Rineke Dijkstra, Richard Billingham, John Stezaker and Adam Broomberg & Oliver Chanarin.

Visitor Information

Opening times: Mon – Sat, 10:00 - 18:00; Thu, 10:00 - 20:00; Sun, 11:00 - 18:00 Admission: free until noon (Mon - Sun) and then £4 / £2.5 concessions

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Exhibition Catalogue

The Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2017 catalogue featuring essays by Stanley Wolukau-Wanambwa, Laurie Anderson, Jason Evans and Yve Lomex edited by TPG Curator Anna Dannemann and is available from The Photographers' Gallery bookshop.

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