# 1. Introduction

Welcome to *Dana Lixenberg. American Images*, the first major touring retrospective of the award-winning Dutch photographer. Born in Amsterdam, Lixenberg has lived and worked principally in the United States since the 1990s and has gained renown for both her editorial portraits as well as her independent projects, which defy cultural stereotypes in favor of a deep focus on the individuality and dignity of her subjects.

Informed by her perspective as a semi-outsider, her vision of the United States is that of a well informed and engaged observer. Her use of a large-format camera alongside her unhurried, collaborative approach fosters trust and intimacy resulting in photographs of remarkable clarity and emotional depth.

This exhibition presents photographs from the past three decades of Lixenberg's oeuvre in both color and black and white. Her subjects range widely,

from homeless midwestern women to famous East and West Coast rappers, and from public housing residents to literary luminaries.

The retrospective also includes documentary items, such as a selection of Lixenberg's preparatory Polaroid photographs, and it showcases a three-channel video installation titled *Imperial Courts*, that grew from her monumental series of the same name.



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