4. *Freeway*, 1993

The Imperial Courts public housing development is located nearby a five-level stack freeway interchange that was completed in late 1993. (Incidentally, shortly before the interchange opened, a pivotal scene from the Hollywood thriller *Speed* was filmed there). Clearly impressed with the scale and geometry of the site, Lixenberg trained her lens on the nearly completed interchange.

An exposure time of at least a few seconds accounts for the blurs caused by the moving vehicles at the bottom of the photograph, while the 4 x 5 format of Lixenberg's camera is responsible for the incredible clarity of the stacked bridges (and the detritus of the foreground).

The photograph is maze-like and mesmerizing. It also prompts reflection about the symbolism of such a construction next to housing for low-income residents: many do not have the means to accept the highway's offer of a quick getaway. On the other hand, others

may not want to leave. All inhabitants must deal with the din of freeway noise that enters Imperial Courts, forming part of the soundtrack of every day.

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