6. *Peanut*, 2024

Remarkably, this photograph allows us to return to the contemplation of Peanut 31 years after Lixenberg first photographed him. With his plentiful freckles and stern expression he still resembles the boy of 1993. Of course three decades have passed. Time has left its marks, and the camera is perhaps the best tool we have for recording and deciphering them.

Peanut's hairline has receded; he is now mostly bald, though he has grown a beard that sprouts several white hairs. He has prominent wrinkles between his eyes and on his forehead. Lixenberg's large-format 4 x 5 camera not only captures these details to great effect, it also requires that photographer and subject understand one another and cooperate to make a successful portrait.

Patience is needed from both parties as the set up takes place. And this time, setting up her tripod, for example, allows Lixenberg to connect with her subjects, to encourage them to drop a cultivated

persona and focus on the moment. About her process Lixenberg has stated, “I’m less interested in the persona someone wants to present than in uncovering what’s really going on with the person at the moment of the encounter.”

Dana Lixenberg American Images

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