8. *Tupac Shakur*, 1993

Vibe magazine's photo editor George Pitts commissioned Lixenberg to make Tupac Shakur's portrait in 1993, after having published several images from her series *Imperial Courts* in the magazine earlier that year.

This portrait of Shakur took on an iconic status almost immediately, demonstrating Lixenberg's incredible skill as a photographer as well as the fruitful nature of her collaboration with Pitts. She would go on to work with *Vibe* throughout the 1990s.

The son of Black Panther parents, Shakur excelled in the performing arts while in school and later danced in hip-hop productions before rising to prominence as a solo performer in the early 1990s. His music stood out for its emotional depth and frank treatment of racism and police brutality, among other topics. Shakur's often high-profile legal troubles kept his name in the press. While Shakur's persona was larger than life, Lixenberg

achieves a portrait that manages to acknowledge his status, while also conveying vulnerability and depth. Indeed, Pitts recognized this unique talent of Lixenberg's and praised, “her manner of capturing the most daring musicians in an unvarnished and uniquely powerful way.”

Tupac Shakur died as a result of the injuries he sustained in a shooting in Las Vegas on the night of September 7, 1996.

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