

## Media Release

Frankfurt/Main; London; 19 May 2017

# Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation

## Lixenberg wins the “Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2017”

Dana Lixenberg has been awarded the twentieth edition of the *Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize* in London on Thursday night, 18 May at a special ceremony in the Photographers' Gallery. She was announced as the 2017 winner of the prestigious £30,000 prize for her multifaceted work “**Imperial Courts**” (Roma, 2015).

**Lixenberg's** publication is a multifaceted portrait of the mainly African-American neighbourhood of the Imperial Courts housing project in Watts in Los Angeles. Returning countless times over a time span of twenty-two years, Lixenberg gradually created a collaborative image of the changing face of this community. Some in the community were killed, while others disappeared or went to jail, while others, once children in early photographs, grew up and had children of their own. Lixenberg started to document the conversations and specific soundtrack of the neighbourhood. Extracts of sound recordings are available through headphone spots within the space.

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.

Brett Rogers, Director, The Photographers' Gallery, said: “We are delighted to announce this year's winner. Her 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 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 on 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."

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](http://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 as the first US-exhibition of the prize to **Aperture Foundation** in **New York** from 16 November 2017 until 11 January 2018.

The 2017 shortlist exhibition has encompassed diverse photographic practices, which recognise and celebrate the many developments within the medium. All of the projects challenge the boundaries of the medium while establishing innovative approaches to documentary, landscape and portraiture.

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.

**Media contacts:**

**Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation:**

Leticia Adam/Heiner Seidel, Phone +49 (0)69 211 11500,  
Leticia.adam@deutsche-boerse.com

**The Photographers' Gallery**

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

**Notes for Editors**

**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](http://www.deutscheboersephotographyfoundation.org).

**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](http://www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk)

### **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.