

PRESS RELEASE

WOLFGANG TILLMANS *TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY*

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Since the end of the 1980s, Wolfgang Tillmans artistic practice has pushed the limits of photography and image-making. He first drew the attention of the art world in the early 1990s with his seemingly everyday images of his contemporaries and of the emerging electronic music and club scenes in Europe. Tillmans quickly became one of the authors who defined a new intimist style of documentary photography, and his images captured his generation's non-conformist spirit, subcultures, and sexual identities. Since then, Tillmans has only deepened his research, venturing beyond photography to develop a decidedly multidisciplinary artistic practice engaged with the social and political questions of our time.

For each of his exhibitions, which he always conceives as site-specific installations, Tillmans plays with a great variety of formats, supports and hanging systems. His installations invite visitors to observe the whole as carefully as each individual element, leaving them the freedom to make their own connections. At WIELS, Tillmans has integrated the architecture, the light, and the sound into the presentation of his images, thus turning the qualities of the space itself into parameters that influence the way his images are perceived.

Weaving its way across the wealth of media and the variety of his subjects, the notion at the core of Tillmans' work is visibility. When does something become perceptible? What is the relationship between what we perceive and what we know? What impact do new technologies have on how we see the world? These questions reveal the political reach of Tillmans' work, which, in poetic ways, draws our attention to the contradictory and sometimes barely perceptible movements that make up our present.