

Josef Strau, "Wolfgang Tillmans: Lighter (Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin)", in "Artforum", December 2008, p. 100

JOSEF STRAU

"Wolfgang Tillmans: Lighter" (Hamburger Bahnhof—Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin) When I first became interested in narrative writing, I was irresistibly driven by the idea that Tillmans's photography should be my paradigm. His work, which was noticeably different from most (particularly German) photography of the time, incorporated a literary quality, diving fearlessly into various social and personal narratives. I have long believed in a good/evil dialectic between narrative and formalist art. In Tillmans's huge Hamburger Bahnhof exhibition, his narrative structures were less prominent. The photographs nevertheless created a new experience for me, suddenly making even the "empty halls" of formalism somehow lovable.