



Wolfgang Tillmans, *Moon in Earthlight*, 2015  
 Courtesy Galerie Buchholz, Berlin, Galerie Chantal Crousel, Paris, Maureen Paley, London, David  
 Zwirner, New York

PRESS RELEASE | EXHIBITION

# WOLFGANG TILLMANS

## NOTHING COULD HAVE PREPARED US EVERYTHING COULD HAVE PREPARED US

### 13.06 → 22.09.25

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Centre Pompidou, level 2

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#### Curators

Chief curator of the cabinet of photography,  
 Musée national d'art moderne – Centre Pompidou  
 Florian Ebner

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#### Associated curators

Curatorial officers at the cabinet of photography,  
 Musée national d'art moderne – Centre Pompidou  
 Olga Frydryszak-Rétat, Matthias Pfaller

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**CELINE**

From 13 June to 22 September 2025, the Centre Pompidou is giving free rein to German artist Wolfgang Tillmans, who has come up with an original project to round off the programme at the Paris building. He has moved into Level 2 of the Public Information Library (Bpi), transforming the 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> of space in a curatorial experiment that establishes a dialogue between his work and the library space, questioning it both from an architectural standpoint and as a place for the transmission of knowledge.

The exhibition explores almost 40 years of artistic practice through a variety of photographic genres in a retrospective whose order and logic are determined in response to the library space. His work is displayed in a wide variety of forms, exploiting the verticality of the walls and the horizontality of the tables, defying all attempts at categorisation. In addition to his photographic work, Wolfgang Tillmans incorporates video, music, sound and text into this vast installation, in a scenographic approach that utilises the library's characteristic features to reveal analogies between his work as an artist and this place of knowledge. More than ever, the artist will be demonstrating his gift for intervening in space – a distinguishing quality of these exhibitions since 1993.

Hosting Wolfgang Tillmans prior to the metamorphosis of

**the building designed by Renzo Piano and Richard Rogers is an exceptional event.**

Throughout his artistic career, Tillmans (born in Remscheid, Germany in 1968) has pushed back the boundaries of the visible dimension, immortalising and revealing the fragile beauty of the physical world. Proposing new ways of creating images, he explores the profound transformation of the information media and channels of our time. In the process, he created a unique aesthetic universe, born of the countercultural spirit of the early 1990s. Tillmans' multifaceted work has led him on a quest to define a new humanism and alternative ways of living together, with a lasting impact on contemporary creation. His work is deeply rooted in the "Here and Now": he provides a sweeping overview of forms of knowledge and presents a free and sincere experience of the world, examining the contemporary condition of Europe while exploring the techniques of mechanical reproduction.

By presenting the artist's archives alongside his most recent works, the exhibition at the Centre Pompidou highlights dialectics that have transformed the world since 1989: social advances and freedoms that were once firmly established but are now in jeopardy, new ways of community building, and changes in the expression of popular culture and dissemination of information. Wolfgang Tillmans has designed this exhibition in its entirety, creating works specifically for the venue.

In recent years, Wolfgang Tillmans has been the subject of major retrospectives at leading institutions, including the Tate Modern in London in 2017 and MoMA in New York in 2022. He has also presented a

major travelling exhibition on the African continent, entitled "Fragile" (2018 - 2022 in Kinshasa, Nairobi, Johannesburg, Addis Ababa, Yaoundé, Accra, Abidjan and Lagos). The exhibition at the Centre Pompidou is the first institutional monograph in Paris since his ambitious installation at the Palais de Tokyo in 2002. It is accompanied by a catalogue and the publication of an enlarged version of the Tillmans Reader, translated into French and bringing together various texts and interviews with the artist.

**ACCÈS LIBRE PAR CELINE**

As a main partner of the exhibition, the house of CELINE, is collaborating for the first time ever with the Centre Pompidou on the "ACCÈS LIBRE par CELINE" initiative: offering select days of free admission to the public. This unique initiative was imagined as an open invitation to all, an opportunity to discover the world of Wolfgang Tillmans and the Centre Pompidou ahead of its imminent closure.

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Wolfgang Tillmans, *its only love give it away*, 2005  
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Wolfgang Tillmans in the Bpi, January 2025  
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