

G A L E R I E

C H A N T A L

C R O U S E L

**Press release**

**Wolfgang Tillmans**

***Strings***

**September 13 – October 25, 2008**

*You are free to use your eyes and attribute values to things the way you want. The eyes are a great subversive tool because they technically don't underlie any control, they are free when used freely.*

Wolfgang Tillmans

Chantal Crousel is pleased to present the first solo show by Wolfgang Tillmans in Paris since the remarkable exhibition *Vue d'en haut* at Palais de Tokyo in 2002.

Each solo exhibition by Wolfgang Tillmans is a complete universe. It reflects his world, here and now.

The images are of actual realities such as a boy sleeping in a park, a hairdresser in his military hair salon, a part of a plant and a window, an iceberg, as well as darkroom explorations of shape, colour and movement. Assembled into wall constellations, these enter into dialogue and friction with the newspaper clippings, collected objects, photocopied documents and his own photographs that are arranged on tables into sculptural pieces.

The exhibition forms an all-encompassing situation, drawing the viewer in to reflect on details of the everyday and greater questions we are faced with in our experience of life, involving both truths and fictions, colour and black and white. The result is an experience of beauty, vulnerability, and consciousness.

For the main space of the gallery, Wolfgang Tillmans has selected a broad choice of recent large-scale c-prints resulting from various techniques, among which some are created from photocopies of photographs taken by Tillmans (e.g. : *An der Isar I*, 2008). Since the late 1980s he has employed the photocopier in his work as a way to make ephemeral and inexpensive original enlargements.

*The table project arises out of the realisation that the problems and conflicts created by people who lay exclusive claim to absolute truth for themselves are the central theme of our times. The Nineties were shaped by the pragmatic acceptance of relativity. In recent years however the domineering voices of religious intolerance and ideological reaction have dominated the political discourse. It looks as though the dogmatic minority has taken the world hostage, while those who prefer to see things as relative and interdependent are forced to look on in impotent incredulity.*

The annex room features a new series of three-dimensional pieces made from unique c-prints that are part of the ongoing series *Lighter*.

The video work *Peas*, 2006 is projected in the showroom. Introducing sound and movement, this piece tilts the installation into yet another dimension casting light onto the ever awareness of being alive.

Wolfgang Tillmans was born in 1968 in Remscheid, Germany. He lives and works in London.

Recent exhibitions:

*Lighter*, March 21- August 31, 2008 Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin. On this occasion the book, *Lighter*, was published by Hatje Cantz (available at the gallery).

*55th Carnegie International*, May 03, 2008 - January 11, 2009, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, USA; *Collection display, British Art 1900 – 2008*, May 30 – August 31, 2008, Tate Britain, London; *Street & Studio: An Urban History of Photography* at Tate Modern and Museum Folkwang, Essen; *Tegenwoordigheid van Geest: Choices from the Collection by Wolfgang Tillmans*, June 20 – September 30, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; *Just different!*, June 14 – September 21, 2008, Cobra Museum, Amstelveen.