

THE COMMON GUILD

Visual arts: Projects / Events / Exhibitions

MEDIA RELEASE

Wolfgang Tillmans

Works from the Arts Council Collection, 'Onion' and 'Headlights'

20 April - 23 June 2012

Preview Saturday 21 April 2012 3-5pm

21 Woodlands Terrace, Glasgow, G3 6DF

For Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art 2012, The Common Guild is delighted to present a solo exhibition by the German-born, London-based artist Wolfgang Tillmans, his first in Scotland since 1995.

Featuring an important group of works acquired by the Arts Council Collection alongside a number of new works selected by the artist, this exhibition covers the characteristic range and diversity of imagery in Tillmans' practice.

Ranging from intimate portraits, dense with emotional intensity, to vast monochromes, baring the traces of the physical process involved, Tillmans is known for both the range of subject and the varying scale of his photographs. Sometimes highly choreographed and other times completely spontaneous, Tillmans demonstrates a simultaneous understanding of the emotional relationship between the photographer and his subject and the objectivity of the photographic process.

"I love the piece of paper itself, this lush, crisp thing. A piece of photographic paper has its own elegance, how it bows when you have it hanging in one hand or in two and manipulate it, expose it to light - I guess it is quite a gestural thing."

Tillmans is also known, perhaps unusually for a photographer, for the diversity in the presentation of his work - from his signature bulldog clips, map pins and sticky tape mounts to Plexiglass hoods and bespoke vitrines. Through this range of scale and format, object, whilst reminding the viewer of the temporality, and fragility, of the image that they see.

Frequently referencing other genres, such as painting and sculpture, in both the content and the presentation of his work, Tillmans also explores the context of the photographic image, reminding the viewer of both its ubiquity and its uniqueness.

Exhibition open daily during Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art (20 April - 7 May) as follows: weekdays from 10am-5pm, until 7pm on Thursdays and Fridays and Saturday & Sunday 12 noon-5pm

From 8 May - 23 June: Tuesday - Saturday 12 noon-5pm, until 7pm on Thursdays and Fridays, and by appointment

1. **Wolfgang Tillmans** was born in Remscheid, Germany in 1968. Recent solo exhibitions include Serpentine Gallery, London (2010), Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (both 2008) Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, PS1, New York (both 2006) and Tate Britain, London (2003). Tillmans participated in the British Art Show 7 (2010-11), 53rd Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy, and the Third Moscow Biennale of contemporary art, Moscow (both 2009). In 2000 he became the first photographer to win the Turner Prize and in 2009 he was awarded the Kulturpreis der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Photographie.

2. **The Common Guild** is a visual arts organisation based in Glasgow. It was established in 2006 and presents a dynamic, international programme of contemporary visual art projects, exhibitions, and events. These include gallery-based exhibitions at our current premises as well as non-gallery, one-off projects, talks and collaborations. We are committed to presenting artists' work in interesting and engaging ways and aim to offer access to world-class contemporary art experiences and discussions. The Common Guild is a not-for-profit visual arts organisation, receiving Flexible Funding from Creative Scotland.

3. The Common Guild's temporary home at **21 Woodlands Terrace** is a grand, Victorian townhouse to the west of the city centre next to Kelvingrove Park. Exhibitions take place over two floors, including a unique library, designed by artist Andrew Miller, which includes a selection of books and catalogues on the exhibiting artists.

4. **The Arts Council Collection** supports artists in the UK through the purchase and display of their work. Since it was founded in 1946, the Collection's acquisitions policy has always been characterised by a spirit of risk taking combined with an informed appraisal of current practice. As a consequence, the Arts Council Collection is now the largest national loan collection of modern and contemporary British art in the world. For more information about the Arts Council Collection, please visit www.artscouncilcollection.org.uk

Works from the Arts Council Collection included in this exhibition were purchased in 2009 with the assistance of the Art Fund and were a partial gift of the artist and Maureen Paley, London.

5. The Common Guild's programme for **Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art** (20 April - 7 May) also includes:

The Glasgow Schools

Ruth Ewan

20 April - 7 May 2012

Scotland Street School Museum, 225 Scotland Street, Glasgow, G5 8QB

Tuesday-Thursday and Saturday 10am-5pm, Friday & Sunday 11am-5pm

'The Glasgow Schools' is a new project by artist Ruth Ewan which explores Glasgow's Socialist Sunday School movement, a secular alternative to church Sunday Schools, which were active in the city throughout the 20th century.

'The Glasgow Schools' is curated by Kitty Anderson and Siobhan Carroll.

Full details of all events will be available at

<http://www.glasgowinternational.org/>

Supported by GI Festival and realised in association with The Common Guild.

Together Towards 2014 / Melbourne in Glasgow

Marco Fusinato, Bianca Hester, Laresa Kosloff, Joshua Petherick and David Rosetzky

20 April - 7 May 2012

Various locations across Glasgow.

Dates and times to be announced.

A series of events, screenings and performances by five artists from Melbourne. Full details of dates and locations for all events will be available at <http://www.glasgowinternational.org/>

Presented by The Common Guild as part of a major collaboration with ACCA, Melbourne, supported by Arts Victoria, Glasgow City Council and Creative Scotland.

6. Taking place every other year, and combining some of the characteristics of a conventional arts 'biennial' with a more event-based experience, **Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art** is a unique event in the international calendar with one of the most groundbreaking and dynamic presentations of contemporary visual arts practice. GI is a unique event that offers both globally recognised and emerging Glasgow-based artists across the spectrum of the city's art scene a platform to show new work to both national and international audiences while also introducing the work of important international artists. Since its inception in 2005 the Festival has brought together the key organisations in Glasgow's diverse artistic community, presenting unique events and special commissions rooted in the achievements of the local artistic community, while drawing on important international developments in contemporary art.