



WOLFGANG TILLMANS: TRUTH STUDY CENTER

ED. WOLFGANG TILLMANS

TASCHEN

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While for many photographers the function of a book is to present one specific, clearly defined body of work, Tillmans, who edited *Truth Study Center* himself, refutes this. Inside, the entire oeuvre of the photographer's work is present: images of crumpled clothes, flowers, cityscapes, nude studies, portraits of famous individuals, his recent abstract works, even exhibition installation shots. They all jostle side by side, as the photographer exploits every opportunity to explore the notions of hierarchy and difference that preoccupy him. As the title of Tillman's last major exhibition and publication testifies 'If one thing matters, everything matters'. The accompanying essay, 'The Politics of Everyday Life' (in English, French and German) by Minoru Shimizu, un-packages the concepts behind his work in an unusually categorical manner, splitting her investigation up into a series of mini-essays, which each explore one of the major themes of his artwork, which Shimizu identifies as politics, self-reflexivity and equivalence. For her, it is Tillmans's principle of 'sameness' and his view that 'each arbitrary entity is equivalent to every other' that are most resonant, and when considered in relation to the book's design, this certainly rings true. But it is the images themselves, and their arrangement, which provide the real impetus to buy this monograph, as it is they that give the best insight into his thought process. Lacking the necessary objective eye, the best photographers are not always the best editors of their own work. With this book however, Tillmans may just mark the exception.

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