

NEUE WELT BY WOLFGANG TILLMANS



By Rebecca Lee

Top Picture: *astro crusto, a*, 2012, © Wolfgang Tillmans Berlin/London

*Neue Welt* (New World) is a collection of the latest works by German photographer, Wolfgang Tillmans. Hyper-real images of food, juxtaposed car headlights, ethereal night skies, documentary-style photographs, and a portrait of an onion. All of which collectively embody Tillmans' vast and varied yet unique visual language.



*Iguazu*, 2010, © Wolfgang Tillmans Berlin/London

From the reality of the everyday to the realms of abstraction, he does not conform to any one style. Early work involved the candid documentation of friends and youths that had magazines such as *i-D* and *Interview* publishing his images, establishing Tillmans as a prominent figure of his generation. Recent works explore Tillmans' ongoing engagement with the materiality of medium, through experimentation with the developing 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."*

*"I take a picture to perceive the world." Through developing a distinctive style of exhibiting, he is constantly questioning themes of representation. Photocopies are taped up next to magazine cuttings and postcards that are pinned to the doors, and inkjet prints are hung high and low across the walls. Tillmans' work questions the need for new forms of presentation in exhibition spaces; "How can I get this excitement that I have from a print lying on my table into the gallery?"*



*Market I, 2012, © Wolfgang Tillmans Berlin/London*

Tillmans' constantly re-evaluates the world around him and through naturally positioning himself as both artist and commentator, *Neue Welt* is a compelling insight into how he sees the world.