

Institute of Contemporary Arts

PRESS RELEASE

WOLFGANG TILLMANS ELECTED CHAIR OF THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

The Institute of Contemporary Arts announces today that Wolfgang Tillmans has been elected as the new Chair of the ICA Board of Directors. This marks the ICA's return to an artist-led board for the first time in over 30 years. Tillmans has served on the board of the ICA since June 2017.

Wolfgang Tillmans is an artist, living and working in London and Berlin. Tillmans has earned critical acclaim internationally and has been exhibited around the world since the early 1990s. Recent solo exhibitions include the Modern Art Museum: Gebre Kristos Desta Center of Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia (2019, touring in Africa since 2017); the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2018); Mönchehaus Museum Goslar (2018); Carré d'Art – Musée d'art contemporain de Nîmes (2018); Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden (2018); Fondation Beyeler, Basel (2017) and Tate Modern, London (2017).

Tillmans was the first non-British artist to receive the Turner Prize (2000) and has been awarded the Hasselblad Award (2015) and the Kaiserring Award (2018). Tillmans was an Artist Trustee of Tate 2009–2014 and is a Royal Academician. Tillmans runs the non-profit exhibition space Between Bridges (since 2006 in London and since 2011 in Berlin). In 2017, he established the Between Bridges Foundation for the advancement of democracy, international understanding, the arts, and LGBT rights.

Wolfgang Tillmans said:

‘Since my student days, the ICA has given me the opportunity to see pioneering art of varying media first-hand. Today I am proud to serve this institution as chair and help to support the ICA at a time when its role as a progressive space for culture in the heart of London is becoming ever more important.’

Wolfgang Tillmans succeeds Hadeel Ibrahim, who served on the board since 2018 and was instrumental in developing a new governance structure that promotes a more collective model of leadership. Ibrahim is relocating to Iceland to focus on climate justice.

Hadeel Ibrahim said:

‘I am delighted to be handing over to Wolfgang Tillmans, who has been an invaluable board member to the ICA since 2017. It has been a privilege to serve as Chair of the ICA. We can take collective pride in what we have achieved over the past year.’

Stefan Kalmár said:

‘Times like these are times for artists to lead. I could not be happier to have Wolfgang chairing the ICA Board. I am looking forward to working with him to build on the achievements of the past 24 months since I started as Director. I would like to thank Hadeel for her leadership in a time of transition and am grateful for her dedication in transforming the governance of the ICA.’

For further information, images and to request interviews, please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Founded in 1946 by a collective of artists, poets and their supporters, the **Institute of Contemporary Arts** is an independent organisation and registered charity which supports the most pressing debates in contemporary culture. The ICA stages groundbreaking exhibitions, performances and keynote lectures by many of the world’s leading thinkers. Previously home to the Independent Group, the ICA played a pivotal role in the development of Pop art and charted the course of punk, performance art and independent cinema. The ICA staged the first institutional exhibitions by Francis Bacon, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Tacita Dean, Damien Hirst, Mike Kelley, Mary Kelly, Barbara Kruger, Gerhard Richter, Dieter Roth, Cindy Sherman, Nancy Spero, and Cosey Fanni Tutti and early exhibitions by Bernadette Corporation, Robert Mapplethorpe, Steve McQueen and Tino Sehgal; many now historic performances including those by Laurie Anderson, Einstürzende Neubauten and Yoko Ono; legendary concerts by The Clash, Throbbing Gristle, The Smiths, David Bowie and The Beastie Boys; and critical discussions by the likes of Kathy Acker, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Stuart Hall and Homi K. Bhabha. The ICA Cinema and its dedicated artist’s film programme continue to showcase independent film and support pioneering filmmakers including Chantal Akerman, Kenneth Anger, Matthew Barney, Derek Jarman, Ken Loach and Laura Poitras. From its home on The Mall – the geographic heart of the UK establishment – the ICA is an organisation in which different modes of cultural production thrive on the mutual engagement with one another, and a programme that speaks to the challenges of the 21st century. www.ica.art

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