



# Guy Tillim Second Nature

From 15<sup>th</sup> September to 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2013

Opening saturday 14<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m  
shuttle from Paris for the opening - Reservation required

Press event friday 13<sup>th</sup> september from 11 a.m to 2 p.m

The Centre Photographique d'Ile-de-France is pleased to welcome the second large-scale monographic exhibition in France by that key figure of contemporary South African photography, Guy Tillim. After presenting his series *Jo'burg* and *Avenue Patrice Lumumba* in 2009 at the Henri Cartier-Bresson Foundation in Paris, Guy Tillim will exhibit his latest project for the very first time in France at the CPIF. *Second Nature* comprises two series of photos he took in French Polynesia and São Paulo between 2010 and 2011.

This group of photos explores to what extent a photographer can truly render a natural or urban landscape by evoking a question which is inherent to the representation of landscape: "How much do you 'give' a scene and how much do you let it speak for itself?"

The Polynesian landscape has been the subject of numerous sketches and photos since Captain Cook's voyages at the end of the 18th century, perhaps because it almost eludes any convincing form of representation. When Guy Tillim takes photos of a landscape, he sets himself the task of "actually seeing the landscape. It's a space that changes its face with a glance or a ghost of a thought.<sup>1</sup>" Rather than represent a landscape through details or its monumentality, he is trying to capture an in-between space which makes this representation of nature seems familiar, where each element can express itself equally and without hierarchy.

As if looking for a modern counterpoint to his Polynesian photos, Guy Tillim travelled to São Paulo – a town which has also been filmed, photographed and described from every conceivable angle. Here too, he was seeking a new way of describing a city of which it has been said that "its total absence of personality has become its personality." Guy Tillim took the same approach to this urban landscape as to the landscapes of Polynesia: "I show a sort of indeterminate area. The things that we don't notice, as they are quotidian things. They contribute as much to the landscape as the other things<sup>2</sup>.

1. and 2. Quotations from *Second Nature* by Guy Tillim, published by Prestel, 2012

Born in 1962 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town. Guy Tillim has been a freelance photographer since 1986 and was a member of the Afrapix collective until 1990. Between 1986 and 1988, he worked for Reuters and then for Agence France Presse from 1993 to 1994. His work has previously been presented at the Huis Marseille Museum for Photography in Amsterdam (2012), the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago (2011) and at the Henri Cartier-Bresson Foundation (2009). Amongst others, he took part in Documenta 12 in Kassel (2007) and the triennial 'Intense Proximity' at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris (2012).

Event organized with Stevenson Cape Town and Johannesburg as part of the France-South Africa Seasons 2012 & 2013  
www.france-southafrica.com



Guy Tillim, *Mouaroa, Moorea*, 2010  
© Guy Tillim. Courtesy of Stevenson Cape Town and Johannesburg



Guy Tillim, *Praça Ramos*, 2011  
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Free Entry  
Open Wednesday to Friday 10 am-6 pm  
Saturday and Sunday 2-6 pm

