

# Exhibition

32 | BY: TOM FLANAGAN

## Tilda and her Friends



The Eye Filmmuseum's newest exhibition spotlights the career of Oscar-winning actress Tilda Swinton and the friends who have made it all worthwhile.

© TIM WALKER

VISIT IAMSTERDAM.COM



Glimpse intimate portraits of Tilda Swinton at her family home by Tim Walker, in a photo series connecting the actress to her roots.



© JOUQUINE LUGGE PALMB



© CASPER SEJSEN

Across from Central Station, the Eye Filmmuseum crests the IJ River; an ice-white, unconventional and angular presence that has become an iconic architectural highlight of Amsterdam's waterfront. It's perhaps fitting then that it will play host to a major figure in film, similarly glacial in aesthetic and iconic in cinematic contributions: Tilda Swinton. This autumn, *Tilda Swinton - Ongoing* arrives on Amsterdam's northern shores. It's a first-ever retrospective of the British actress' expansive career and the collaborators who have made it happen. 'Eye has given me the opportunity to reflect on the mechanics of my working practice over the past 40 years,' says Swinton in a statement with Eye. 'And to come to rest on the - ever present - bedrock and battery of the close fellowships I found from the very first and continue to rely upon to this day.'

### Endless muse

Swinton is something of a bonafide legend in cinema, as much known for her enigmatic blockbuster roles - such as the White Witch in *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* or as general counsel to George Clooney in

*Michael Clayton*, her Oscar-winning role - as she is for deeper cuts; think the out-of-control alcoholic in *Julia* or the vampire romantic in *Only Lovers Left Alive*. But it's her collaborations that have been as enticing, her eye for directorial talent carving out work with the likes of directors Pedro Almodóvar, Luca Guadagnino and the late Jim Jarmusch. It's what makes her such a fascinating subject and one worthy of her own exhibition, explains Bregtje van der Haak, artistic director at Eye Filmmuseum. 'She represents the love of film in the broadest sense,' says Van der Haak. 'From *Narnia* to lesser-known independent films, she symbolises transformation and what it means to make something and develop a shared language in doing so.'

### Film friendships

For Eye, it's rare for an actor to be the subject of an exhibition - which typically focus on artists and filmmakers - let alone be given carte blanche to curate the showcase. But the novelty of this is testament to Swinton's career, having worked in close to 90 films, and her generosity in including others.

'There will be six new works by her crea-

tive friends as well as archival footage of a young Tilda. I think what will be special is the recreation of the apartment she lived in with Joanna Hogg [a British director and close collaborator of Swinton's]', says Van der Haak.

There's also a tribute to the late artist and filmmaker Derek Jarman, who gave Swinton her first film role in *Caravaggio* and whose queer film community became family to her. Beyond that, there will be a live performance in the opening week curated by fashion historian Olivier Saillard, with Swinton unpacking costumes from her career, plus live conversations with collaborating directors such as Almodóvar, Guadagnino and Apichatpong Weerasethakul.

The entire exhibition is an endless showcase of Swinton, her multidisciplinary oeuvre and the people who have inspired her along the way. It's the latter that Swinton hopes people will remember, says Van der Haak. 'I was leaving the museum one night after dinner and Tilda said to me: "What I really hope is that people will walk out [of the exhibition] and realise they can make films with their friends too".'

FROM 28 SEPTEMBER, EYEFILM.NL

VISIT IAMSTERDAM.COM

WHAT'S ON | 33