PRESS RELEASE

4 Real & True 2
On the occasion of Wim Wenders’ 70th birthday:
An exhibition, a new film and three Schirmer/Mosel books

He has just been awarded the Honorary Golden Bear at this year’s Berlinale and nominated for an Oscar for his documentary film on photographer Sebastião Salgado – 2015 is a “Wenders year”. Indeed, not only is multi-award-winning German filmmaker Wim Wenders (born August 14, 1945 in Düsseldorf) celebrating his 70th birthday this year, but after a successful start to the year he is also presenting several more new productions. His second 3D film is just starting to show at German cinemas (Every Thing Will Be Fine with James Franco and Charlotte Gainsbourg) and a major retrospective entitled 4 Real & True 2 featuring his impressive landscape photographs has just opened at Düsseldorf’s Museum Kunstpalast (through August 16).

Schirmer/Mosel is publishing Wenders’ eponymous exhibition catalog to accompany the show, featuring over 160 plates and essays by Beat Wismer, Hubertus von Amelunxen, Laura Schmidt and Wim Wenders himself. Moreover, Wenders’ “classics” Written in the West Revisited (108 pages, 58 color plates) and Once: Pictures and Stories (272 pages, 225 illustrations) are now available once again in a (partially revised and extended) new edition.

“Photography is the other half of my life,” confesses Wim Wenders, who became known mainly for his films, including Paris, Texas (1984), Wings of Desire (1987) and Pina (2011). Fascinated by the landscapes and places that he, being a globetrotter, encounters on his many journeys, Wenders captures them in filmic and photographic narratives, observations and pictorial worlds. “Landscapes and places carry within them the need to be narrated, recorded and shown to others,” says the filmmaker, who has been working with a photo camera alongside his film projects for over 50 years. In contrast to his filmmaking approach, Wenders eschews modern technological aids when taking photographs. He prefers the analog process, without artificial light or a tripod. His photographs are a passionate plea for the ‘real’ – 4 Real & True 2 – and for the original photographic method. Here, vast landscapes steeped in the rich colors typical of Wenders’ work can be seen alongside urban vistas from all corners of the world. The exhibition catalog contains photographs from the series Written in the West, Once: Pictures and Stories, Pictures from the Surface of the Earth, Journey to Onomichi and Ground Zero, published shortly after 9/11, as well as new work from recent years, such as pictures of the Fukushima area after the nuclear disaster.