



Karl Bartos Communication

Re-Release: November 21, 2025
CD / LP / DIGITAL



Karl Bartos: Communication – A timeless statement on media, culture, and music

Karl Bartos, renowned as an essential member and songwriter of Kraftwerk during their most innovative years, is reissuing his solo album Communication on Hamburg's Bureau B. First released in 2003, 13 years after leaving the legendary electronic group, the re-release arrives at a moment when its central theme, the transformation of culture through electronic media, feels more relevant than ever.

When Bartos departed Kraftwerk in 1990, he left behind a catalogue that had redefined electronic music: "The Model", "The Robots", "Numbers", "Pocket Calculator" and many more bear his imprint as co-writer and melody-maker.

2021 Kraftwerk's classic line-up was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame for their innovative work – the first German band ever to be honored.

With the sharp witted electro-pop of Communication, the Kraftwerk legend extended that legacy, turning his focus toward a rapidly evolving media landscape at the turn of the millennium. At the time, the album's exploration of celebrity culture, digital imagery, and the early internet felt like a glimpse into the future. Today, it reads as sharp cultural analysis of a reality that has since become ordinary.

Two decades later, this reissue allows Communication to be reconsidered on its own terms. The questions Bartos posed, about image saturation, reality fragmentation, and identity commodification, resonate more strongly in the age of smartphones, social media, and streaming platforms than they did in the early 2000s.

Karl Bartos: „We are living in an age of huge behavioural manipulation. Cybernetics, artificial intelligence – this is a major challenge for humanity.“

Bartos's role in shaping Kraftwerk's defining sound is undisputed, yet Communication also asserts his independent artistic voice: one that critiques media while celebrating the joy of electronic sound. Its re-release is less a nostalgic act than a reminder that Bartos's work continues to speak directly to the cultural present. With this reissue on Bureau B, Communication endures as both a document of its time and a timeless statement on media, culture, and music.

Tracklist

- A1** The Camera
- A2** I'm The Message
- A3** 15 Minutes Of Fame
- A4** Reality
- A5** Electronic Apeman
- A6** Life

- B1** Cyberspace
- B2** Interview
- B3** Ultraviolet
- B4** Camera Obscura
- B5** Another Reality

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