

## **The Independent, London**

### **Arts Previews: Multimedia: Pictures, sound and technology**

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The former KW star Karl Bartos is coming to London to perform at Optronica, a new festival dedicated to the fusion of music and visuals at the National Film Theatre (NFT) and the BFI London Imax Cinema.

Bartos's audio-visual show with the video jockey Karsten Binar and the musician Mathias Black will consist of some KW classics. "I will perform 'Neonlights', 'Computer Love', 'The Model' and 'Trans-Europe Express' with material from my latest record, Communication", Bartos says.

Bartos left KW in 1990. He is now a professor at the Berlin University of the Arts and he will be giving a lecture at the festival on the development of cultural communication. He will show how modern media is transforming itself away from a word-centred culture into an image-centred culture.

On stage, Bartos will 'represent the emotion of sound' as he stands in the middle of his three-piece group. Binar, who is responsible for the on-screen visuals of pictographic designs, represents 'the voice of pictures' while the third member, Black represents the voice of technology, mixing on stage with his portable sound system.

The festival is the brainchild of Addictive TV, a multimedia group, voted best VJs in the world last year by DJ magazine. They will be performing live on the flytower of the National Theatre (NT) with spectacular projections taken from the private archive of a French pilot in the 1950s, visible across the River Thames. Other acts include the UK premiere of DJ Spooky's solo film remix Rebirth of a Nation and the video artist Bob Jaroc's new surround-sound audiovisual project 'Greedy Baby'.

Does Bartos miss being in his former band? 'It was a long time ago,' says Bartos, originally a classically trained percussionist. 'When I am reminded it gets a little annoying, but I was in a band which became very successful.'