

KRAFTWERK - THE MANMACHINE - RALF HÜTTER

INDIPENDENZA, ROME

10.07.25-26.09.25

This unique audio-visual installation has been conceived and created by RALF HÜTTER for Indipendenza's singular exhibition space.

In 1970 RALF HÜTTER founded the legendary electronic KLING KLANG STUDIO in Düsseldorf with his partner FLORIAN SCHNEIDER and together they started their multi-media project KRAFTWERK.

'KRAFTWERK - THE MAN MACHINE' comprises sound, video and projected images. These audio-visual elements harmonise to present the iconic, timelessly modern musical vision of Kraftwerk in a contemplative and ambient form.

The electronic intensity of 'KRAFTWERK - THE MAN MACHINE' installation by RALF HÜTTER responds powerfully to the Belle Epoque apartment that has been transformed by Indipendenza into a revelatory context in which to show contemporary art.

The achievement and vision of Kraftwerk as an electronic multi-media project, pioneering and extending the capacities of recorded and especially live music performance, is a globally recognised and acclaimed cultural statement.

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Since the international success of their first concept album 'AUTOBAHN' in 1974, to the concept of 'THE ROBOTS' in 1978 by RALF HÜTTER and 'COMPUTERWORLD' in 1981, Kraftwerk has been acknowledged as 'a complete audio-visual work of art' - a true GESAMTKUNSTWERK.

Within the creation, presentation, and performance of their music, we find artist, subject, process, and artwork united in precise and harmonious interrelation with one another. The artistic vision of Kraftwerk has been likened to an 'endless journey', as conjured by the mesmeric, multi-layering rhythms of 'AUTOBAHN' - a track that doubles as a complete artistic manifesto.

Kraftwerk originated in the late 1960s with the Dusseldorf art scene, with Beuys and Richter, and they represent mass-technological global modernity. Across 'THE CATALOGUE' of their eight studio albums, the electronic music-vision of Kraftwerk articulates the sleepless energy of mass phenomena in a manner that is both Romantic and Sublime.

Kraftwerk recount and celebrate the origins of modern service and recreation technologies by audio-visually relating the PAST PRESENT and FUTURE. The experience of the MULTI-MEDIA ART of 'THE MAN MACHINE - KRAFTWERK' projects the listener into the middle of our present time: BETWEEN THE END OF THE PAST AND THE BEGINNING OF THE FUTURE

Michael Bracewell, 2025.