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CARSTEN NICOLAI (b.1965, GDR)

Artist and musician Carsten Nicolai studied landscape architecture in Dresden, Germany. In his work, Nicolai uses electronic sound and visual art as a kind of hybrid-tool to create his own microscopic view of creative processes. His world looks more like a laboratory, constantly morphing in space and time, influenced by the impulses of media and sound. The message as a code becomes the primary theme via visualised sound performance.

Nicolai is one of the most renowned artists working at the intersection of art and science and is infamous for his minimalist approach. Under the pseudonym Alva Noto, Carsten Nicolai experiments with sound to create his own code of signs, acoustic and visual symbols. As Alva Noto, Nicolai leads those experiments into the field of electronic music, playing with the rules of physicality. Sound is changed and evolved into time and space and transformed by looping oscillators and tone generators. Through these processes the essence of pure electricity is made audible. Besides performing in clubs and concert halls, Nicolai has presented his audio-visual pieces at museums like Solomon R. Guggenheim museum in New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Centre Pompidou in Paris; Kunsthaus Graz in Austria; and the Tate Modern in London.

Carsten Nicolai was born in Karl-Marx-Stadt, GDR. He lives and works in Berlin. After his participation in international exhibitions like *Documenta X* and the 49th and 50th Venice Biennial, Nicolai's works were shown in two comprehensive solo exhibitions at Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Germany (*anti reflex*), at Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin, Germany (*syn chron*) in 2005, at Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich (*static fades*) in 2007 and at CAC, Vilnius (*pionier*) in 2011. Recent solo exhibitions include *Unidisplay*, Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montréal, Canada; Hangar Bicocca, Milan, Italy; *Pionier*, CAC, Vilnius, Lithuania; Galerie EIGEN + ART, Leipzig, Germany; The Pace Gallery, New York, US; and *Filter*, House of Art, Budweis, Czech Republic. In 2012, he was commissioned to build his lfo Spectrum in the Olympic Park village for the London games.