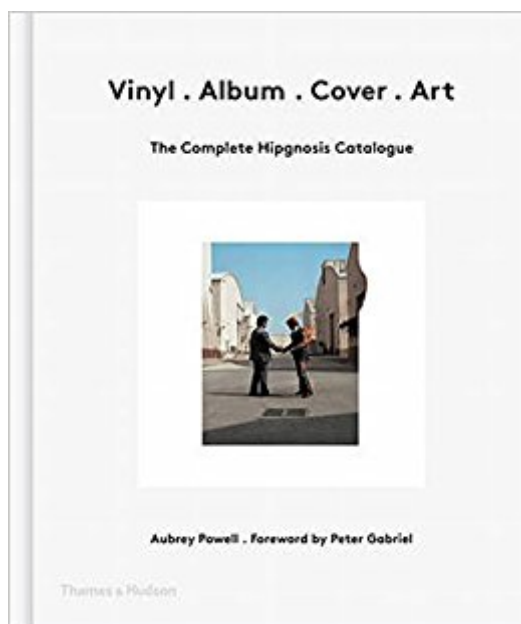


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Vinyl . Album . Cover . Art: The Complete Hipgnosis Catalogue



Synopsis

The complete catalogue of design collective Hipgnosis, showcasing groundbreaking cover art created for iconic rock & roll giants, including the Rolling Stones, Paul McCartney, Led Zeppelin, and Pink Floyd. The complete, definitive, and never-before-published catalogue of album covers created by the legendary design agency Hipgnosis, this volume finally does justice to the work of the most important design collective in music history. Founded in 1967 by Storm Thorgerson, Aubrey "Po" Powell, and Peter Christopherson, Hipgnosis gained a legendary status in graphic design, transforming the look of album art forever and winning five Grammy nominations for package design. Their revolutionary cover art departed from the conventional group shots favored by record companies of the day, resulting in groundbreaking, often surreal designs inextricable from the major albums of many of the biggest names in the history of popular music: AC/DC, Black Sabbath, The Police, Genesis, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, Paul McCartney, Syd Barrett, The Who, Wings, Yes, and XTC, to name but a few. Arranged chronologically, *Hipgnosis: The Complete Album Covers* features stunning reproductions of every single Hipgnosis cover—more than 300 in total—for the first time, along with pertinent insights from the rock & roll legends whose albums are featured and behind-the-scenes photography. The text, written by Powell, and with contributions by Peter Gabriel, Robert Plant, and Nick Mason, brims with information that illuminates the album art and the compelling stories behind each cover's creation. 500+ color illustrations

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Aubrey Powell co-founded the design agency Hipgnosis with the late Storm Thorgerson in 1967. Their stunning and often surreal work established them as the most important design collective in music history. In 1989, Po was made creative director for The Paul McCartney World Tour, designing the stage set, video wall and filmed images. He is the author of numerous books, including Hipgnosis | Portraits, and is the current creative director for Pink Floyd.

Must have for those of us who remember when an album release was an event, and a huge part of that event was the cover. How many of the classic covers of the "Classic Rock " era were created by Hipgnosis. This book is beautifully bound, even though I would've preferred a more "coffee table book" size. Viewing these images closer to their original size would've worked better for me (and of course would weigh about 25 pounds). If you like this book, I would suggest you track down "Walk Away Renee" which contains a lot more information about the creation of these covers, as well as background stories. It's out of print, but definitely worth seeking out.

If you grew up in the 60's or 70's you will want this simply for the nostalgic value. Just seeing some of the album covers again brought back a flood of memories, but the back stories were even better. For the very young - if you have ever heard your grandparents talk about Pink Floyd, you need to gift them this book.

Breathtakingly comprehensive and fascinating coverage of the ultimate, album cover art company, Hipgnosis. If you love album cover artwork, I can't recommend this highly enough. Incredible! Buy it.

Waited forever for this and it did not disappoint. A must for any music lover.

Interesting info on many favorite album covers

Great background and some really cool art.

Bought 3 of them for gifts. Everyone loves them

"Hipgnosis had an informal atmosphere that was overflowing with 'unique' character." Marcus Bradbury."You would be insulted, laughed at, entertained and challenged, but you could be certain

Hipgnosis would deliver." Peter Gabriel. Finally, the complete album artwork from Hipgnosis in a format that combines an art book and a true catalogue. In a nutshell--the reproductions are crisp and clean. There's informative captions for each album that oftentimes go beyond simple album information. The size of the book (approx. 7 3/4" X 9 1/2") is a bit too small to adequately display a number of covers--from one to a page, to a few two page spreads, to four covers per page. But as I said, the reproductions, and the fact that this is the complete catalogue, and not just simply an art book with pieces chosen from the entire catalogue of work, goes a long way in making this book worth owning for Hipgnosis fans (like me) who want all the artwork in one book. There's no dust jacket and the outer boards are a textured white which will attract finger smudges if that's a concern--but it does look classy. This book is somewhere between four and five "stars" because I wish the size of the book--hence the reproductions--would be larger, but this is closer to five "stars". To each his own on the book/reproduction size matter. There's a mistake on page 151 which shows four album covers on one page. Cover number 1 ("Nazareth") and cover number 4 ("Hydra") should be reversed according to the captions below the covers--but that's a minor quibble. The book has a Forward by Peter Gabriel ("Although many creative folk passed through Hipgnosis, it was driven and defined by the three partners, the wild, the weird, and the wonderful."), plus an Introduction by Aubrey Powell on Hipgnosis ("When the sky's the limit you push yourself to the limit too."), and a 1977 essay by Storm Thorgerson on "How To Design A Record Cover.". The artwork is arranged chronologically from 1967 through 1984. Beginning with a Laurel Aitken album "Says Fire" and Pink Floyd's "Piper At The Gates of Dawn (a substitute cover), both from '67, to "About Face" by David Gilmour, "Now Voyager" from Barry Gibb, and "Hey Drag City" a various artists set (all from '84), everything is here. Finally, to finish things up there's a chapter titled "Outro" with a piece by Marcus Bradbury on working at Hipgnosis. There's a much needed index of album titles for easy reference. The quibble about the book's size aside, I really like this book the more I get into it. The colors are accurate and pretty stunning and details are crisply rendered on a semi-matte paper stock surface. The captions oftentimes go beyond standard album information with personal, sometimes pithy comments ("Clifford T. Ward wanted a portrait, so he got one. Clifford doesn't look very happy though, and neither were we.") which add depth and interest and introduce a more human element to the catalogue. This book can easily sit on the shelf next to other books on Hipgnosis. Hipgnosis artwork fans, miss this catalogue and it's your loss.

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