

## FOR THE RECORD: PHOTOGRAPHY & THE ART OF THE ALBUM COVER 25 MAR – 12 JUN 2022

*For the Record: Photography & the Art of the Album Cover* celebrates the unique 'object d'art' that is the Album Cover and reflects upon its role in shaping and making artists - both in front of and behind the camera.

From **Robert Frank's** legendary imagery for **The Rolling Stones**, **Annie Leibovitz's** visionary work with **Cyndi Lauper**, **Jean-Paul Goude's** unforgettable **Grace Jones** covers, **Herb Ritts'** iconic image of **Madonna**, **Jean Baptiste Mondino's** **Prince**, **Irving Penn's** mesmerising close up of **Miles Davies**, to **Robert Mappelthorpe's** intimate portrait of **Patti Smith**, the creative collaborations between visual and recording artists is the stuff of musical and photographic history - and the point of departure for this exhibition.

*For the Record* brings together **over 200 album covers**, highlighting the central role photography plays in defining artists and bands, and showcasing some of the most iconic album covers of our times. While many of the 'artistes on the covers' will be instantly recognisable, the exhibition illuminates the often overlooked and multifaceted contributions of photographers and other visual artists to the identity of the 'stars' and the labels themselves.

Featuring work from such photographic and artistic luminaries as **Andy Warhol**, **Cindy Sherman**, **David Bailey**, **David LaChapelle**, **Ed Ruscha**, **Elliott Erwitt**, **Guy Bourdin**, **Helen Levitt**, **Irving Penn**, **Jeff Wall**, **Joseph Beuys**, **Juergen Teller**, **Lee Friedlander**, **Nan Goldin**, **Richard Avedon**, **William Eggleston** and more, many of whom had their careers launched through their cover images, the exhibition also looks at the contribution of a range of equally visionary, though perhaps lesser-known artists, photographers, graphic designers and creatives.

The exhibition is arranged around a series of thematic-led 'chapters', presenting the physical covers themselves, and exemplifying both singular and longer-term creative collaborations such as **Lee Friedlander's** symbiotic relationship with **Atlantic Records** (and including his covers of such greats as **Hank Crawford** and **Ray Charles**) and **Francis Wolff's** iconic black and white work with the **Blue Note jazz label** (which in some cases features the original working prints alongside the covers). The exhibition also considers the significance of the visual iconography adopted by a range of other musical genres. While the highly stylised graphics of the **Hipgnosis** design agency exemplified a technicolour, surrealistic, and utopian imaginary world for **Pink Floyd**, other choices of artwork illustrate how the album cover has repurposed and re-appropriated many of the century's

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anonymous press and social documentary images that have acquired symbolic status beyond their original meaning. This is especially evident in the series of covers for historic blues recordings released by the **Yazoo label** in the 1960s, featuring startling documentary images from **Jack Delano** and **Dorothea Lange** (amongst others) reflecting the conditions in America's deep south.

Shining a light on the myriad ways this platform has been used by artists and labels, this extensive presentation offers a love letter to the much-prized 30cm x 30cm square format that is the Album Cover, while offering a fascinating journey through significant moments in musical, artistic and cultural history.

***For the Record: Photography & The Art of The Album Cover*** is curated and presented in collaboration with collector and exhibition originator, **Antoine de Beupré**, whose collection of 15,000+ albums form the basis of the display.

-ENDS-

Supported by Simons Muirhead Burton.

#### Press Contacts

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#### Notes for Editors

##### **Antoine de Beupré**

Antoine de Beupré is a curator, gallerist, composer and collector who has worked extensively in the field of photography. He began his career by opening a specialist bookstore of antique and contemporary photography before founding Galerie 213 in 1997. This led to the development of Editions 213 and international curatorial work, most recently, *La Movida* for Les Recontres d'Arles in 2019. Equally passionate about music, de Beupré graduated from Berklee College of Music with a degree in composition in 1996 and has been an avid Record collector ever since.

##### **The Photographers' Gallery**

The Photographers' Gallery opened in 1971 in Covent Garden, London, as the UK's first independent and publicly funded gallery devoted to photography. It was the first UK gallery to exhibit many key names in international photography, including Juergen Teller, Robert Capa, Sebastiano Salgado and Andreas Gursky. The Gallery has also been instrumental in establishing contemporary British photographers, including Martin Parr and Corinne Day. In 2009 the Gallery relocated to a new multi-storey building in Ramillies Street, Soho and opened its doors to the public in 2012 after an ambitious redevelopment plan which provided the Gallery with three floors of state-of-the-art exhibition space as well as an education/events studio, a gallery for commercial sales, bookshop and cafe. The success of The Photographers' Gallery over the past five decades has helped to secure the medium's position as a vital and highly regarded art form, introducing new audiences to photography and championing its place at the heart of visual culture.

[www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk](http://www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk)

**Visitor Information**

(please check website for latest opening information)

**Opening times:**

Monday (& Bank Holidays): Closed

Tuesday & Wednesday: 10.00 – 18.00

Thursday & Friday (Late opening): 10.00 – 20.00

Saturday: 10.00 – 18.00

Sunday: 11.00 – 18.00

**General Admission:** £5 / £2.50 Concessions. Fridays 18.00 - 20.00 Free for everyone

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