

Recreating Iconic Album Covers

The aim of this project is to create new versions of iconic album covers that have significant anniversaries in 2025.

These works already have a massive cultural footprint, so we want to respect the original aesthetics while introducing fresh, bold, and innovative designs that capture the moment.

A re-imagining of these covers could/should:

Honour the original designs:

The covers of these works are often iconic in themselves. Maintaining a connection to the original design is important for both nostalgia and recognisability.

Introduce modern elements:

Design trends have evolved, and a 2025 edition needs to feel relevant to today's audience. Whether through typography, layout, materials, or colours, modern techniques should infuse the design with fresh energy.

Use newer formats:

In 2025, physical formats like vinyl and CDs exist alongside digital formats, and even 'futuristic' concepts like album art for streaming platforms or USB music storage. Designers need to think about how the updated designs will function in these various formats.

Target multiple audiences:

The audience for these anniversary editions could span multiple generations. Longtime fans may be drawn to nostalgia, while younger audiences may appreciate a more contemporary aesthetic. Designs should be layered and dynamic, appealing across these groups.



Aphex Twin
Blackbox Life Recorder 21f / In a Room7 F760
Weirdcore, 2023



New Order
Touched By The Hand Of God
(Inner sleeve)
Peter Saville, 1987

Research Suggestions

The Designers Republic (Warp Records, Aphex Twin)

Known for their bold, futuristic, and often abstract aesthetic. They have created iconic work for music labels like Warp Records, video games like Wipeout, blending pop culture, irony, and sharp visual experimentation.



David Carson (Ray Gun, Nine Inch Nails)

Known for his “grunge” aesthetic, distorted typography, and layout designs that feel raw, chaotic, and emotionally intense.



Paula Scher (CBS)

Legendary graphic designer known for her work with CBS Records and Atlantic Records in the 70s and 80s. She designed album covers for a wide range of artists including Dylan, Springsteen, and Billy Joel.

Peter Saville (Joy Division, New Order)

Known for his minimalist yet striking approach, often focusing on typography and abstract visuals. His designs balance restraint with bold, modernist aesthetics.

Hipgnosis (Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin)

Famous for surreal, concept-driven covers, often using photography and collage. Hipgnosis embraced experimentation and embraced visual storytelling.

Neville Brody (The Face, Cabaret Voltaire)

Famous for his experimental use of typography and avant-garde design, which was as much about breaking the rules as following them.

Vaughan Oliver (Pixies, Cocteau Twins)

Oliver created tactile, atmospheric, and often abstract album art, blending photography, textures, and ambiguous meanings.

Cey Adams (Beastie Boys, LL Cool J)

Adams is an artist and designer who has contributed extensively to hip-hop album art.

Design Considerations

Research and Respect for the Original Designs:

Research the original artwork. The iconic visual language – whether it's the surreal photography of *Wish You Were Here* or the minimalist symbolism of *Unknown Pleasures* – could inform the new direction. While the design can break from tradition, can it honour the elements that made the originals memorable?

Innovative Use of Typography:

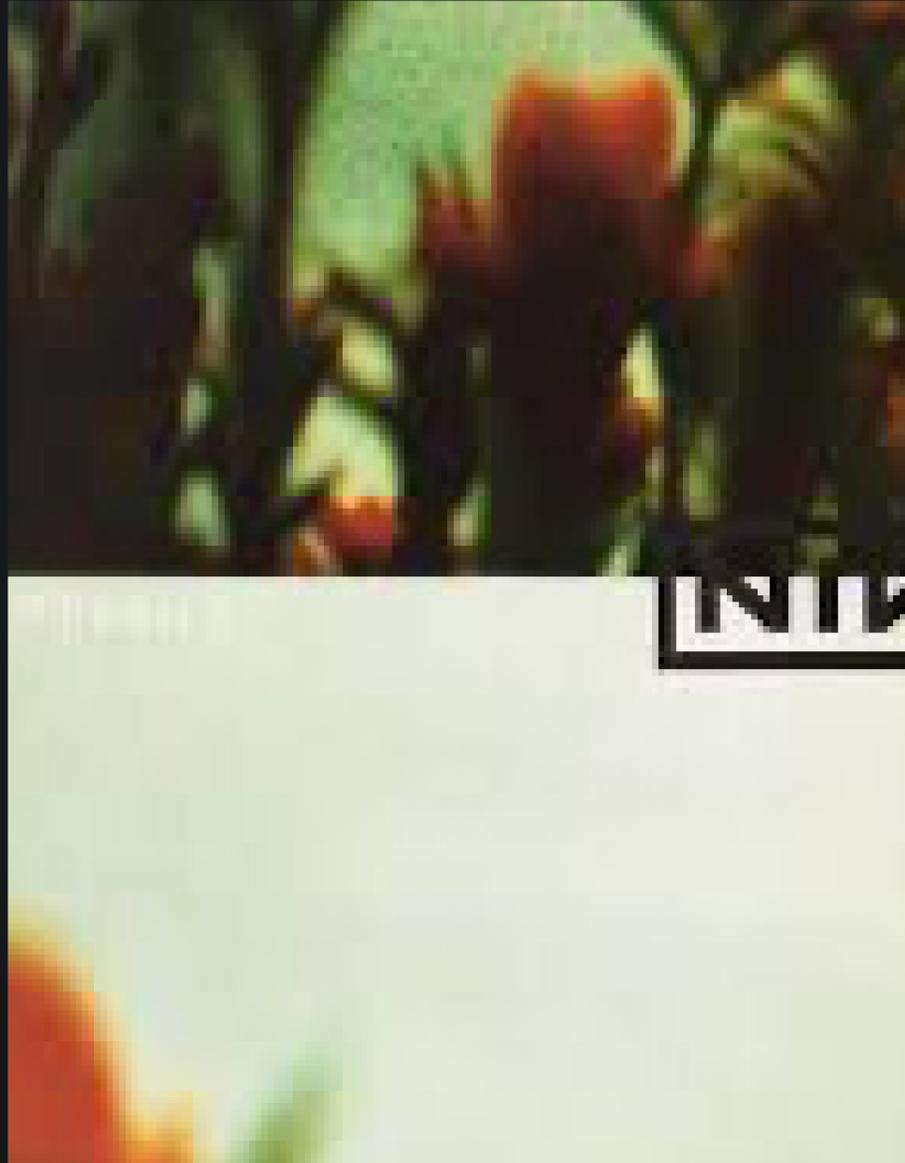
Typography plays a significant role in both album and book cover designs. Take inspiration from figures like Neville Brody or David Carson, try using bold and experimental type treatments that create visual impact. Typography could be layered, distorted, or manipulated to evoke different moods and narratives, depending on the project.

Formats and Materials:

Vinyl: Design special edition gatefolds or embossed vinyl sleeves, considering the unique scale of the vinyl format. Include inserts such as lyric sheets or liner notes with new artwork.

CDs/Cassettes: Smaller formats will require the design to focus on key elements like typography and image composition to make a strong visual impact within a confined space.

USB/Other digital: Consider creating interactive USB designs, where the packaging or device itself is part of the experience.



The Albums

10th Anniversary

Kendrick Lamar - *To Pimp a Butterfly*
Tame Impala - *Currents*
Adele - *25*
Grimes - *Art Angels*

15th Anniversary

Kanye West - *My Beautiful... Arrogant*
Gorillaz - *Plastic Beach*
LCD Soundsystem - *This Is Happening*

25th Anniversary

Radiohead - *Kid A*
OutKast - *Stankonia*
Eminem - *The Marshall Mathers LP*
Daft Punk - *Discovery*
The White Stripes - *De Stijl*

30th Anniversary

Oasis - *(What's the Story) Next Opening*
Bjork - *Post*
TLC - *CrazySexyCool*
Smashing Pumpkins - *Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness*
Pulp - *Different Class*
Foo Fighters - *Foo Fighters*

35th Anniversary

Depeche Mode - *Violator*
Public Enemy - *Fear of a Black Planet*
Pixies - *Bossanova*
A Tribe Called Quest - *People's Instinctive Travels and the Geography Lesson*
Cocteau Twins - *Heaven or Las Vegas*
LL Cool J - *Mama Said Knock You Out*

40th Anniversary Albums:

The Smiths - *Meat Is Murder*
Prince - *Around the World in a Day*
Tears for Fears - *Songs from the Big Big World*
New Order - *Low-Life*

45th Anniversary Albums:

Talking Heads - *Remain in Light*
Joy Division - *Closer*
AC/DC - *Back in Black*
Prince - *Dirty Mind*

50th Anniversary Albums:

Pink Floyd - *Wish You Were Here*
Bob Dylan - *Blood on the Tracks*
Kraftwerk - *Radio-Activity*
Led Zeppelin - *Physical Graffiti*