

Album

Art

A to Z

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# A

## AC/DC

### Highway to Hell

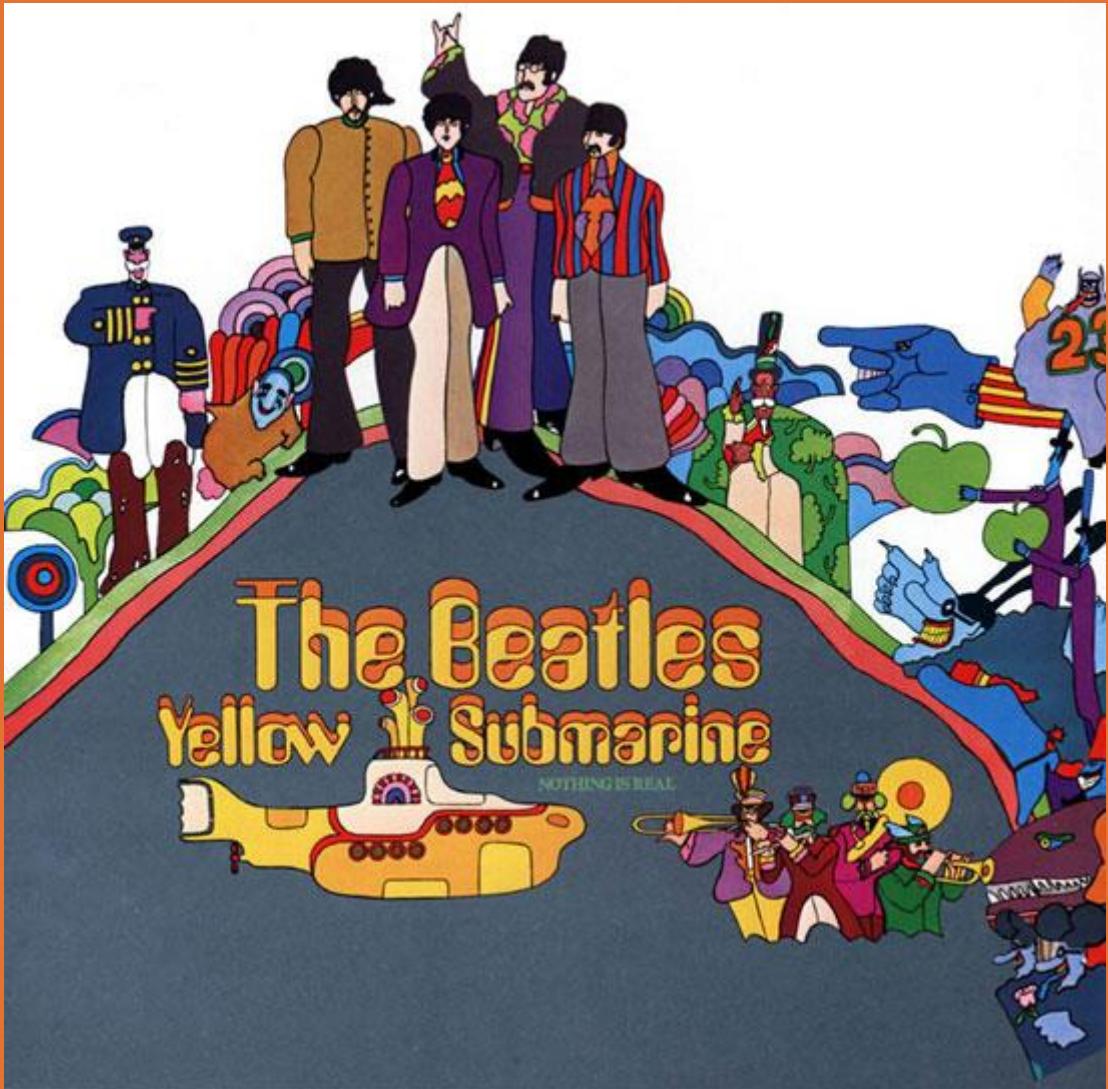
Released: 1979



AC/DC Australian rock band, formed in 1973. I chose their album Highway To Hell because it is one of my personal all time favorite AC/DC albums and it the last album featuring lead singer Bon Scott before he died. Also the album art is super cool with Angus Young on the cover wearing his schoolboy uniform and devil horns symbolizing hell, this made the album very controversial, because some religious group said it had an evil meaning, but really Bon was saying "I'm on the highway to hell" it meant that he was doing the nightly or weekly pilgrimage down Canning Highway to The Raffles bar to rock and drink with his mates: "Ain't nothing I would rather do. Going down, party time, my friends are gonna be there too."

# B

## Beatles Yellow Submarine Released: 1968



British Band formed in Liverpool England in 1964. I chose The Beatles Yellow Submarine album cover because it has a very hallucinogenic look and feel to it and it has a bright happy poppy feel to it. The person who drew it was Heinz Edelmann, the graphic designer and illustrator for comically hallucinogenic landscape of Pepperland as art director for the animated Beatles film “Yellow Submarine”.



# C

## Cheap Trick Dream Police Released: 1979



Cheap Trick is an American rock band formed in 1974. I chose this album because not only is it my favorite album, but it was their most commercially successful studio album. Cheap Trick was always big on visual presentation and were one of very few American bands making concept videos before MTV. The "Dream Police" video was directed by Arnold Levine and starts with a vignette showing each band member in an interrogation, answering to the Dream Police (Bun E. Carlos says: "I'll never eat another double cheeseburger before bed.")

# D

## Def Leppard

### Hysteria

Released: 1987



Def Leppard are an English rock band formed in 1977. I chose this album because I really love the retro weird Pacman maze with a big triangle in the middle and a creepy face in the middle. There are two screaming faces screaming like they are hysterical. One of my favorite and one of their most famous songs, Pour Some Sugar On Me. The videos they have done for the songs sounded like they were live.



# E

## Eagles Hotel California Released: 1976



Eagles are a 70's band from LA. I specifically chose this album cover because of how beautifully the sun hits the Beverly Hills Hotel making it almost seem like a silhouette in the setting sun with blue lights spots of lights scattered on parts of the hotel. Don Henley the lead singer of the Eagles said he wanted the hotel to symbolize "Faded loss of innocence and decadence." and how he was trying to use California as the "microcosm for the rest of the nation".

# F

## Fleetwood Mac Rumours Released: 1977



While Fleetwood Mac isn't my most favorite band, I liked their album cover for Rumours because of the simple photograph with Stevie dressed in her "Rhiannon" stage persona and Mick Fleetwood in a fancy outfit with toilet chains wrapped round his waist. This album was all about bad relationships and Stevie and Mick don't look they are having a lot of fun on the cover. On the back there is a montage of band portraits that were all taken by Herbert Worthington, the band's photographer.



# G Jackie Gleason Lonesome Echo Released: 1955



Jackie Gleason was American comedian, actor, writer, composer and conductor. Lonesome Echo is an Easy-listening, and pop record. The reason the art was chosen was because Gleason was friends with the famous painter Salvador Dalí whom he had asked if he could help design a cover and I do like Dalí's work. Dalí wrote a narrative om his artwork in the record's liner notes. He wrote "The first effect is that of anguish, of space, and of solitude. Secondly, the fragility of the wings of a butterfly, projecting long shadows of late afternoon, reverberates in the landscape like an echo. The feminine element, distant and isolated, forms a perfect triangle with the musical instrument and its other echo, the shell."

# H

## Debbie Harry Kookoo Released: 1981



Debbie Harry is American Rock singer, songwriter and actress known as the lead singer Blondie. 'Kookoo' was Debby's first solo album which was released in 1981. The album speaks to me in the way that it has a slightly eerie and creepy look. Debbie has three giant acupuncture pins sticking out of her face. Debbie wrote this song with her boyfriend while they were taking a break from Blondie. It was designed by H.R. Giger who won an Academy Award for his design work on 'Alien'; he went for the "bio-mechanical" design which merged Harry's face with giant acupuncture needles, which is pretty cool so that might actually explain the whole needle-through-the-face-and-neck as it is a bit crazy and out there like the movie 'Alien'.



# INXS KICK Released: 1987



INXS are an Australian rock band from 1977. I chose INXS' KICK. The cover is just the band and Michael Hutchence in different poses. What makes the cover cooler is the band's use of Vision Street Wear's "Psychostick" skateboard hovering in the air. Vision Street was a famous skateshop in California. Psychostick was a famous skateboard, the bottom was hot pink and a drawing of a person's face with insane spirally eyes. People complained about the cover not representing accurately how skateboards work.

# Janis Joplin

## Cheap Thrills

Released: 1968



Janise Joplin was an American rock singer and songwriter. Janise Joplin's Cheap Thrills album cover was an overnight \$600 dollar album cover that was drawn by Robert Crumb who was making a name for himself at the time as one of the original underground cartoonists of Zap Comix. I chose it because it was one a comic strip and I like comics and 2. Janis Joplin was one of the most successful and widely know female rock stars of her time. Interestingly, the original name of the album was Sex, Dope and Cheap Thrills, and the cover showed the group naked in bed together, was vetoed by Columbia Records.



# K

## KISS

### Destroyer

Released: 1976



KISS are a Rock band that were formed in 1973 in New York. I chose Destroyer because it was the first album where KISS hired an artist named Ken Kelly to draw the album and the cover shows the band standing in a burned-out city like a gang of futuristic bandits. Destroyer is a very iconic KISS album cover. I have a two pairs of leggings with this album cover art and every time I wear them people come up to me and tell me they are KISS fans. The band members used the poses on the cover art for their comic strips and the same artist was hired for the Love Gun album.



L

# Led Zeppelin

## Physical Graffiti

Released: 1969



Led Zeppelin was a rock band from England formed in 1968. I chose Physical Graffiti by Led Zeppelin because the album was a two record set, people were able to line up one of the four sleeves to match up different faces in the windows and on the album the face's in the window included their manager Peter Grant and various members of the band dressed a bit differently like Laurel and Hardy, King Kong, and Judy Garland these are only three examples. Plus it was originally inspired by a real built that was five stories but on the album was cut down to 4 for size reason.



# M

## Madonna Celebration Released: 2009



I chose this album because of how similar her cover art looked to that of Andy Warhol's Marilyn Monroe painting except Madonna's face is transparent and on a brown paper style back ground and is spray painted. The idea for this album was first pitched in 1982. It was her 3<sup>rd</sup> compilation album covering her work from 1982-2009. Madonna became tied with Elvis Presley as the solo artist with the most number-one albums in the United Kingdom.

# N

## Nirvana

## Bleach

## Released: 1991



I chose Nirvana's Bleach because of how the cover was reversed-out as if it were a film negative and the cover fit into the Sub Pop's design aesthetic i.e. a stark field of color with bold type and a striking photograph, like an X-Ray. Kurt Cobain's first girlfriend (not Courtney Love) took the picture of the band.



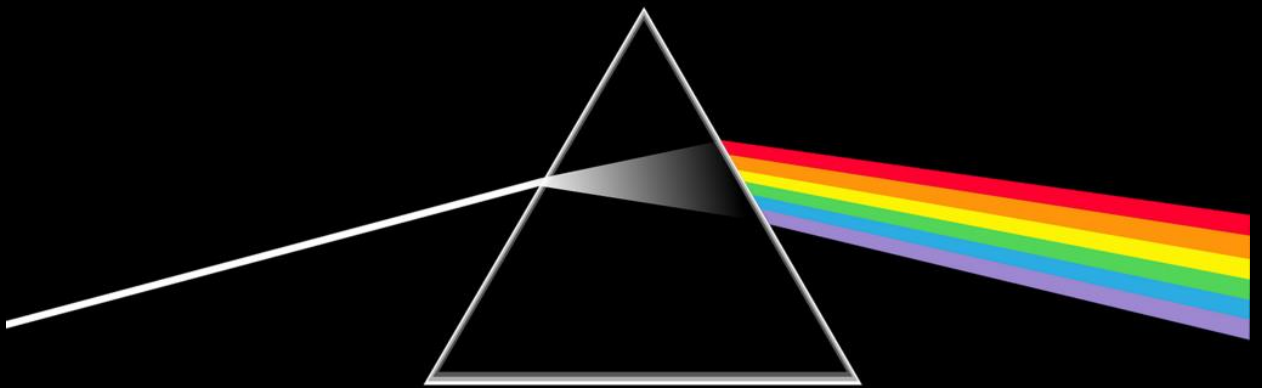
# O Of Montreal Daughter of Cloud Released: 2012



Of Montreal is an American indie rock band from Athens, Georgia in 1996. I chose this album because of how detailed and intricate the drawing on the cover was and there are lots of bright colors on an otherwise blank white background of the album cover. The drawing on the album I see a tiny dragon on top with a big dragon on the bottom (you can only see its mouth).

# P

## Pink Floyd Dark Side of the Moon Released: 1973



Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon is a beautiful album because of how the background is totally black and that there is a white triangle prism with a beam of white light refracting and causing a rainbow on the other side. It is a very trippy and interesting album. This is a super iconic album cover and recognizable by almost everyone who has listened to rock music. It topped the Billboard Top LPs & Tapes chart for a week, and remained on the chart for 741 weeks from 1973 to 1988.



Q

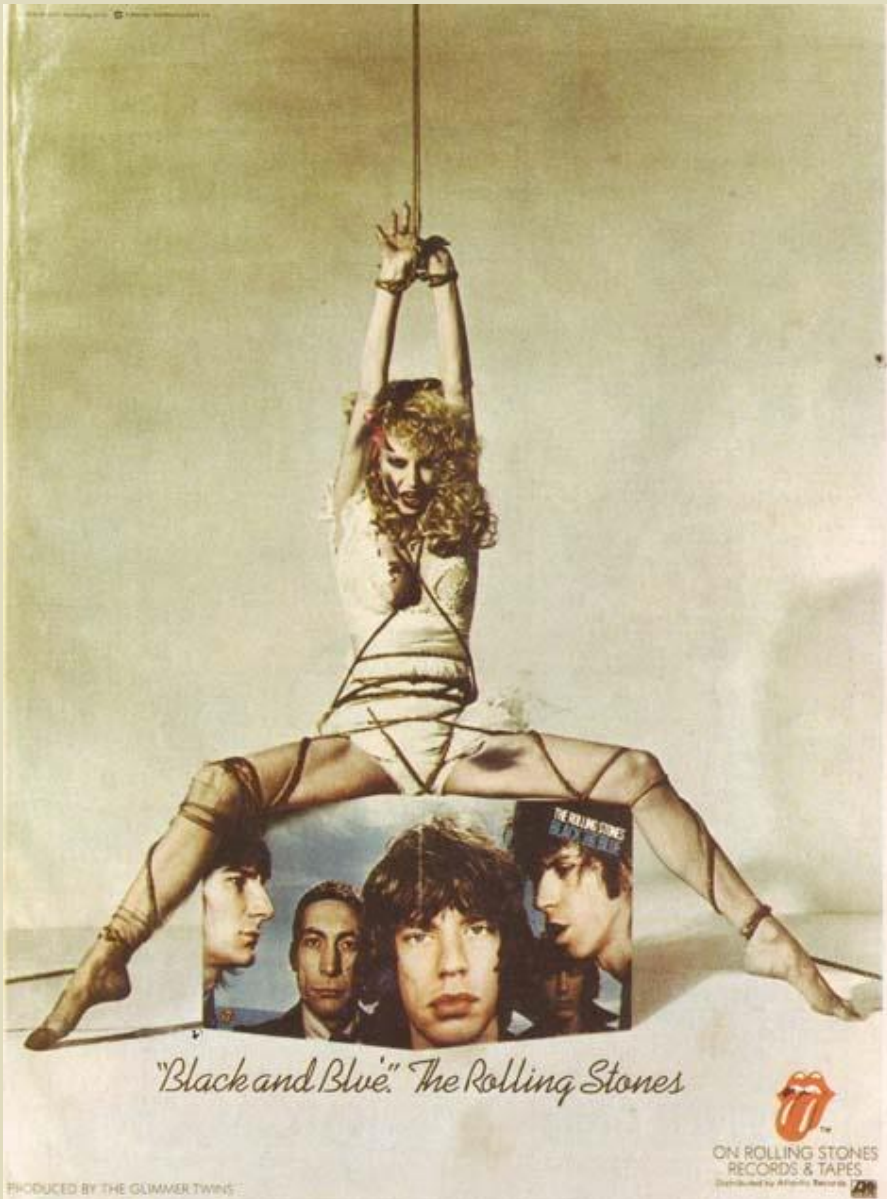
# Queen News of the World Released: 1977



Queens News of the World of the world was an easy choice for the letter Q. The album cover was a painting by American sci-fi artist Frank Kelly Freas. Roger Taylor, Queen's drummer, who was trying to become a dentist before Queen started had an issue of Astounding Science Fiction with cover art showing a giant intelligent robot holding the dead bodies. This robot is holding the bodies of Queen with Roger falling to the ground. Contrary to the cover this album is not really dark, including soccer anthem, We are the Champions and We will Rock You.

# R

## The Rolling Stones Black and Blue Released: 1976



The title of the album brought controversy there was at one point a billboard with a woman bound with rope and wearing dark makeup, to make it look like she was bruised by a beating and the slogan "I'm 'Black and Blue' from the Rolling Stones – and I love it!" I found this to be disgusting and it was controversial it sparked a feminist group Women Against Violence Against Women. They didn't tour because of all the backlash they got for the billboard.



# S Styx Grand Illusion Released: 1977

STYX

THE GRAND ILLUSION



I chose Grand Illusion album by Styx because not only was it my first album I reviewed (see blog post 2 date: October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017). The album cover is filled with illusions – there is a man on a horse, there is a face that fills the top half of the man, the face becomes, becomes a horse with a full snake filled patterned all woven through a forest. All of the songs seem to be about illusions – including the Grand Illusion, Castles Walls, Super Stars, Fooling Yourself, the Grand Finale.



# T Tears for Fears

## The Seeds of Love

Released: 1989



Seeds of Love entered charts the UK charts at number 1 and the top 10 in the US. The reason for choosing The Seeds of Love was because I liked how strange it looked by mixing photos with paintings and the paintings and drawings look like something straight out of a creepy children's book including a sun with a creepy face, weird shaped stars, sunflowers, lily pads, umbrella, a bird, mountains, hearts, a moon, a wheel. The album has a jazzy gospel sound as opposed to their previous electronic sounds. It was their last album for a decade.



# U

## U2

# The Joshua Tree Released: 1981

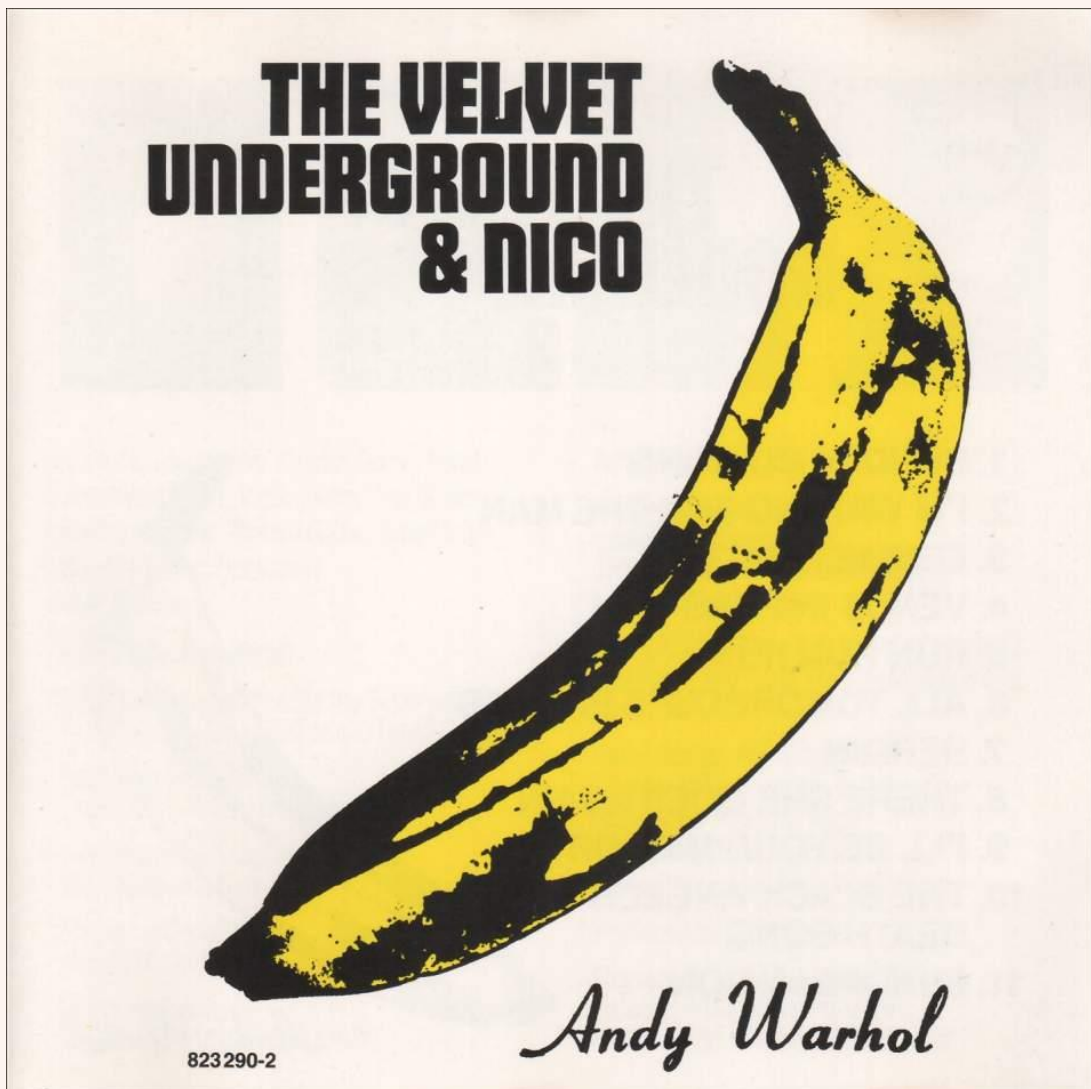
T H E J O S H U A T R E E U 2



The album shows U2 in front of a Joshua tree, outside of Reno, Nevada. The significance being the tree is alone when most Joshua trees stand in clusters. The tree fell over in 2000, there is a memorial and plaque to the tree that says "Have you found what you're looking for?" a reference to song "I still haven't found what I am looking for"? The album is political and considers American values and policy in Central America. The album cover has a dramatic look to it and that it was beautiful how the whole band appeared to be looking off into the distance and alone.

# V

## Velvet Underground The Velvet Underground & Nico Released: 1972



I chose this cover because it uses Andy Warhol's famous banana painting. Some of the original LPs had a peel away banana sticker that if you peeled it away you got a freshly peeled banana (sexual image implied.) Andy Warhol was the Velvet Underground's manager and "patron saint". The album was finished in 1967 but it took five years to figure out how to manufacture the album cover sticker. They decided to wait because Warhol was famous and the banana sticker was worth the marketing. In 2012, the Velvet Underground sued the Warhol Foundation because they licensed the banana image to Apple for phone and iPad covers.



# W Whitesnake

## Saints and Sinners

Released: 1982



This album cover has an angel and a human kissing and a snake. It has notable song "Here I go again". The album references Rock n' Roll Angels, Love and Affection, and Saints and Sinners. There was lots of tension with the band and the guitarist, bassist and drummer left after this album. This album reminds me of cupcakes. There is a fantastic bakery in Venice, California. They have gluten free bakery (Saints) and decadent stuff (Sinners)

# X

## X-ray Spexs

### Germfree Adolescents

#### Released: 1978



This was a debut album. In 2001, Spin Magazine ranked it as the 5<sup>th</sup> most essential punk album and is listed as the 1001 albums you should listen to before you die. The cover shows the band members trapped in the test tube in different crazy poses in what looks like Star Trek costumes (according to my mom.) Some of the songs on the album include: Art-I-Ficial, Obsessed with You, Genetic Engineering, Germ Free Adolescence, and The Day the World Turned Day-Glo.

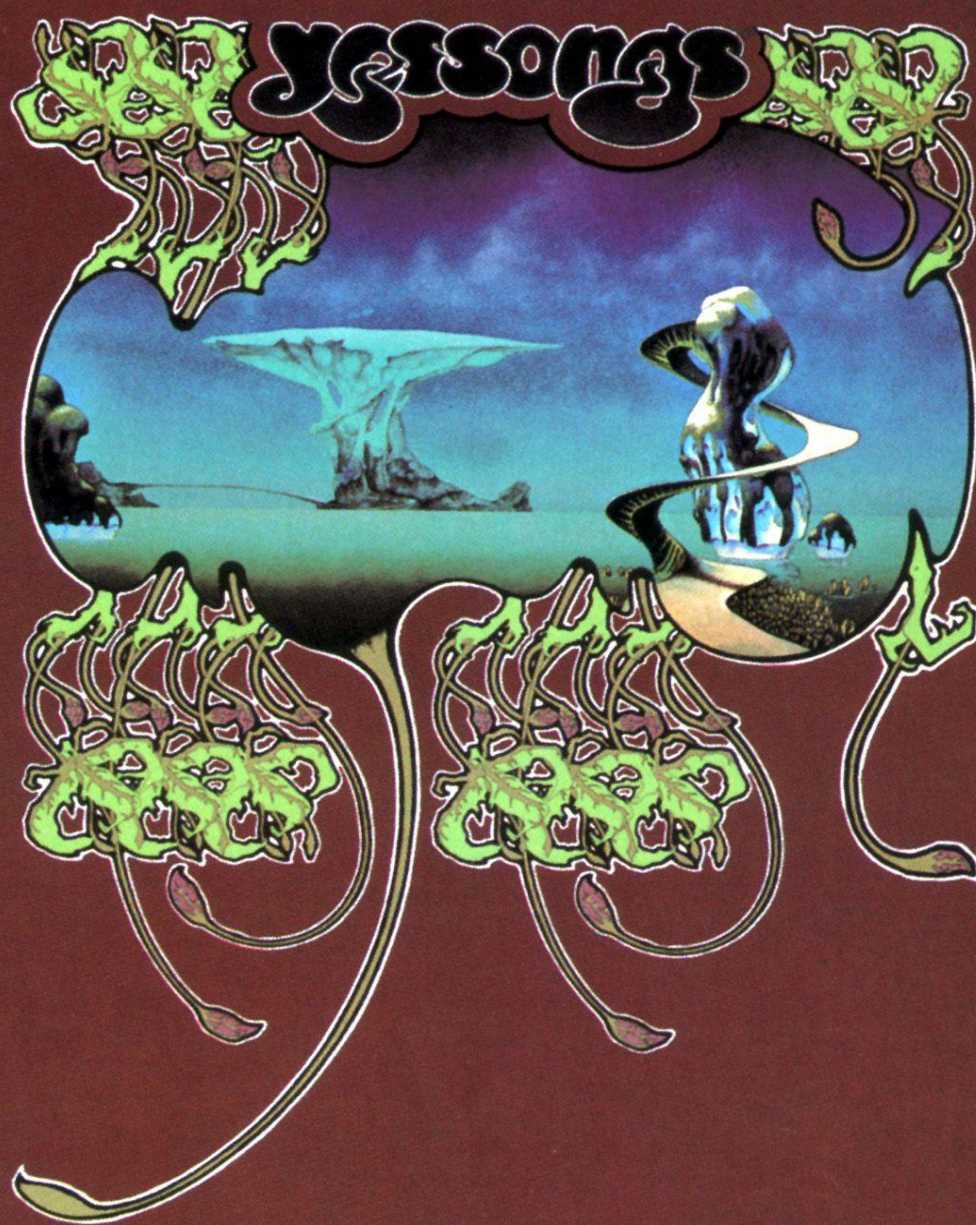


# Y

Yes

Yessongs

Released: 1972



The album covers of Yes always are amazing, offering a window into otherworldly places, strange things and beasts with vivid detail. The album were all drawn by Roger Dean, and English Artist and designer. His art transports you to another dimension and planet. In addition to Yessongs, Fragile, The Ladder. Dean also did album covers for Asia, Greenslade, Anderson Brueford Wakeman & Howe.



# Z Frank Zappa and Mothers of Invention One Size Fits All Released: 1972



It is a collage of different drawings with a couch out in space and amazing little details....very Frank Zappa. Frank Zappa is known for his strange album covers and antics. It was the 10<sup>th</sup> and last studio album. It was produced in LA and is almost 42 minutes.