

SHOPPING

WITH MICHAEL HOOTMAN



Jazz Covers (Taschen) is a collection of more than 650 of the most celebrated jazz album covers from the 1940s through to the early 1990s, where the sheer virtuosity of the design matched anything that was going on in the actual vinyl. These beautifully reproduced colour plates contain some of the most dazzling examples not just of LP art, but of contemporary popular art. The

range of styles is sometimes almost dizzying – from the almost austere surrealism of **Gene Harris's *Astral Signal*** to the abstract modernism of the **Miles Davis Quartet**, the dreamy pointillism of the **Art Farmer Quartet** and a **Gerry Mulligan** cover featuring a Roman mosaic. It's not all beard-stroking cool though, as there are some quite breathtaking examples of high kitsch – I particularly liked **Playboys** with its topless model hiding her nipples with a couple of furry glove puppets. In short, there's something for everyone.