

[ ARTIST AND  
REPertoire ]

**alex  
steinweiss**

*Inventor of the  
Modern Album Cover*



*Like porn and 40-ounce bottles of King Cobra, LPs used to be sold in nondescript brown-paper wrapping—until 1940, that is, when a 23-year-old visionary named Alex Steinweiss invented album covers as we know them. Working at Columbia Records, he made the record sleeve his canvas. His arrestingly flat, modernist designs ranged from the fancifully literal (a curvy conga for a Desi Arnaz LP) to the elegantly abstract (a nest of amoebas for a collection from British composer Bob Sharples). All can be found in this signed, luxuriously appointed art book, which will add some serious class—and cred—to your music collection. (\$500, Taschen)*

