

He's got the



Were eyewear designer Moss Lipow's vision for his book *Eyewear:*

*A Visual History* (Taschen, \$60) to be tested, it would be 20/20, so acute is his understanding of the history of spectacles and sunglasses. Lipow is an innovative and inventive designer of the genre, and will be launching a new collection come next spring. Until now, though, it is his book that has been consuming his working days and nights, painstakingly tracing the evolution of how we've aided our sight since the seventeenth century, or found ever more stylish ways to shield our eyes from the sun than simply raising our hands, with many incredible and

cool examples from the early 1900s onward. Along the way, he manages to turn a history of a design form into a compelling narrative with cultural and social import, with plenty of brilliant and eye-catching images. Lipow first developed an obsession with eyewear when he needed glasses in his teens, and early on he realized that a pair is, he says, "the single best fashion item for creating your

persona; you can use it to project anything you want." Yet the one thing he hasn't seen is the perfect pair. "I suspect," Lipow says, laughing, "they haven't been made yet." —MARK HOLGATE

**THROUGH A GLASS, DARKLY** LIPOW'S HISTORY OF OPTICS INCLUDES EVERYTHING FROM NOVELTY FRAMES, FAR LEFT AND BELOW, TO VINTAGE VOGUE COVERS.

