

Book Review: Eyewear: A Visual History by Moss Lipow

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Full disclosure: We have faked an eye exam before. Okay, several times. Who can blame us? We love glasses. It's a tad early in our fashion career to start wearing sunglasses indoors, and we need an excuse to wear frames all day, every day.

It's good to know that we're not the only ones who feel this way. "Women wear rings and bracelets, what do they need those for?" says Moss Lipow, eyewear designer, CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund finalist, and author of the newly released *Eyewear: A Visual History*. "Frames are an expression of style." Lipow's book begins in the 11th century and traces eyewear's position in the fashion market, identifying how perceptions of eyewear have shifted from a practical necessity marking physical decay to a coveted accessory and luxury item.

We found ourselves drawn to the retro styles in Lipow's anthology, as he uses his extensive collection of antique and vintage frames as the book's main visual element. Lipow spotlights the origin of the 1950s cat eye frame and the explosion of the Elvis Presley chromed-plastic aviator in the 1970s. Eyewear trends prove that fashion is cyclical, and Lipow writes, "Many manufacturers have now begun remaking styles they first created decades ago, or are launching new forays into retro style—all of which makes eyewear's whole remarkable history more relevant today than ever."

Spoiler alert: Lipow reveals in his introduction that falling in love with a ballet dancer from Slovenia instigated him to start his eyewear business, and consequently, his study of the history of eyewear. Can we request a sequel? We want to read more from a man who sees life through rose-colored glasses.

--SIERRA TISHGART