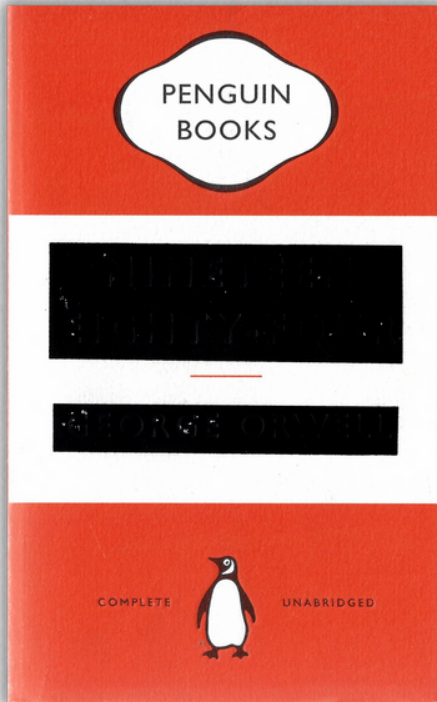


Top 5 book covers by Russ Bestley

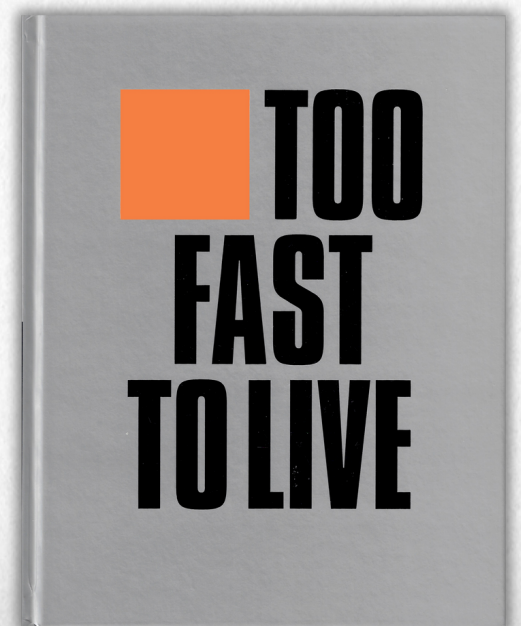


***Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell (Penguin 2013)**

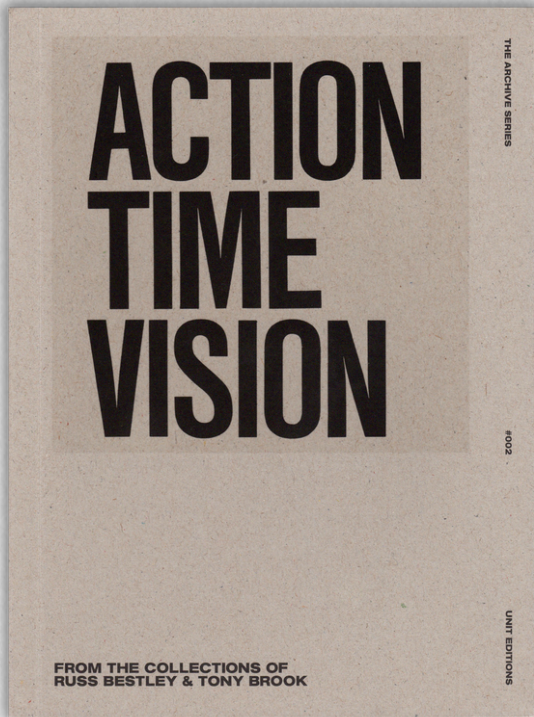
Of course, there have been scores of different cover designs for Orwell's classic novel since its first publication in 1949, but this one by David Pearson stands out for me as the perfect reflection of the book's contents. Rather than attempting to illustrate the narrative with images or symbols, Pearson chose to emboss the book's title and author name against the classic Penguin two colour grid, then redacted the text by overprinting black blocks. Perfection.

***Too Fast to Live Too Young to Die* by Andrew Krivine (Pavilion 2020)**

Krivine's book, subtitled *Punk & Post Punk Graphics 1976–1986*, is a remarkable collection of graphic work from the punk and post-punk era. The author managed to commission two of the biggest names in post-punk graphic design, Malcolm Garrett and Peter Saville, to design the front and back covers respectively. Garrett's simple typographic cover employs a bold condensed typeface – Compacta Bold – along with a simple orange square set against a silver background. Reminiscent of the first Buzzcocks album while also harking back much further to the modernist typographers of the 1920s.



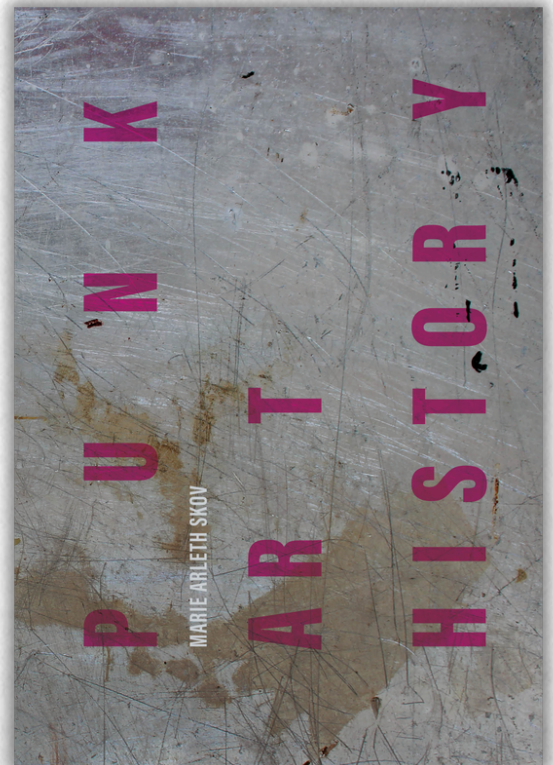
Action Time Vision by Tony Brook & Adrian Shaughnessy (Unit Editions 2016)

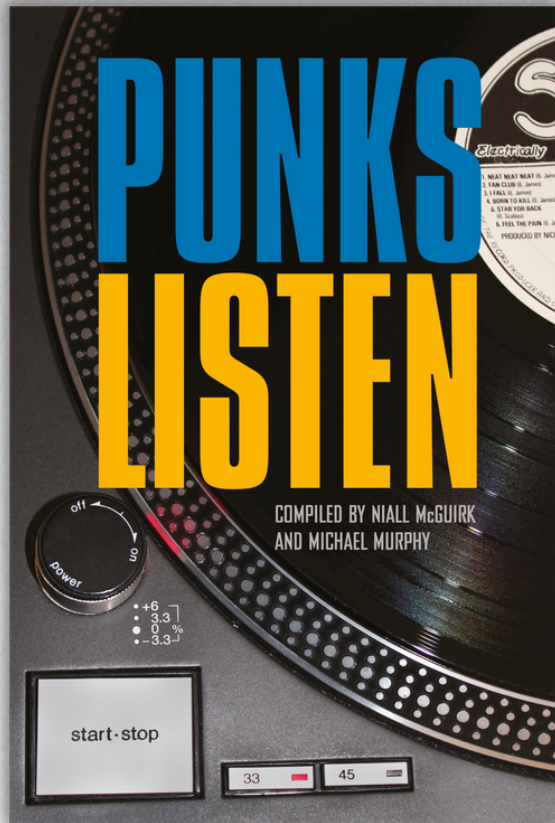


Another compilation of post-punk graphics, this time taken from Tony Brook's and my own collection, with accompanying essays from Brook, Shaughnessy, Daniel Miller, Malcolm Garrett and Russ Bestley. I love Tony Brook's choice of raw, textured card for the cover, with a simple typographic treatment mirroring the cover design of Alternative TV's classic single of the same name, originally released in 1978. A simple spot varnish square is overlaid on the book title to lift it from the matt background.

Punk Art History by Marie Arleth Skov (Intellect 2023)

I may be cheating, but I've chosen a couple of my own designs here. Marie Arleth Skov's brilliant book on European punk viewed through an art historical lens merited a simple but visually striking cover. The book contents are visually rich, and I wanted to avoid an homage to any particular artist or style, so I chose to adopt a much more straightforward approach for the cover. The background image is a photograph of the lid of an old military metal box from my late Dad's garage, with the pink type set vertically and monospaced to add drama. The titles were spot varnished to add to the 3D effect.





Punks Listen by Niall McGuirk & Michael Murphy (Hope Publications 2022)

Niall McGuirk and Michael Murphy have published a series of books under the Hope Publications banner to raise money for charitable causes. Following two books that generated funds for Syrian refugees and NHS Charities Together (during the COVID-19 pandemic), the pair decided to gather together a collection of essays on favourite records by punk musicians, promoters, managers, journalists, artists and designers, with all proceeds donated to Red Cross Ukraine.

I chose to photograph an album on my record turntable – I wanted a black and white label and a significant punk record, so chose the debut album by The Damned, *Damned Damned Damned*, which utilizes the Stiff Records custom lettering by one of my favourite designers, Chris Morton (c-more-tone). I set the title in Compacta Bold to create a visual block in the colours of the Ukrainian flag, with just the red light of the turntable speed control offering a little extra colour to the composition.