

Artwork by Storm Thorgerson

Audioslave – 2002

The cover to the Audioslave CD was inspired by Pink Floyd's live recording in the ruins of Pompeii, Italy in 1971. Thirty years later, Storm returned to the site to work on a DVD version and of Pink Floyd Live at Pompeii and the artwork for Audioslave began to take shape.



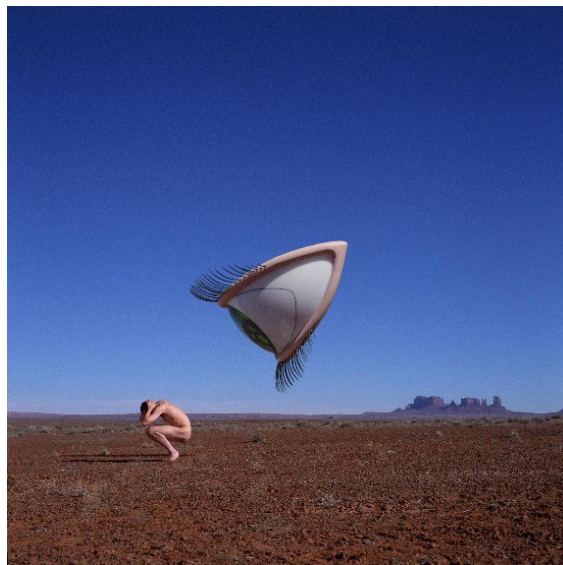
Compliments of Storm Thorgerson

"Work begets work, ideas spawn further ideas. We had been working on a Live at Pompeii DVD and were very preoccupied with volcanoes. The sultry rock music of Audioslave seemed to suit the brooding power of volcanoes. At first we didn't know what to do until we came up with a graphic flame like an eternal flame in a shape that looked like a hand of flame, which we turned into a large sculpture made of beaten bronze, like a sounding brass. This sculpture sitting majestically in a volcanic landscape is being honoured by a pilgrim, a slave to sound (Audioslave) paying homage as any slave should." – Storm Thorgerson, private interview, 2004

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Bury the Hatchet - The Cranberries –1999

The Cranberries cosmos is reflected beautifully with the diptych images used for “Bury the Hatchet”. Two themes are represented in this picture: that someone may always be watching (eg big brother, surveillance, terrorist measures) and the internal eye of guilt and paranoid (one’s conscious). In this particular image, the ‘dreaded eye of paranoia’ is hovering over the naked and vulnerable figure. Afraid and pressing down on him with nowhere to escape, the figure covers his head to hide but the eye is still watching. The second image (not shown) illustrates the same figure standing facing the eye, screaming in retaliation and fighting back. We may not be able to escape the all-seeing eye, but we can tell it to fu*k off when we want to!



Compliments of Storm Thorgerson

“When we arrived in Flagstaff it actually snowed. Couldn’t believe it. Miraculously the weather cleared further north, providing two glorious days of perfect winter light. On location on the first morning our truck broke down in the middle of nowhere. We got the Navaho heebie jeebies about working on what might be the sacred land, and with what exactly? An evil eye and a naked man! Should be easy to explain (especially to a Navaho). And then we were caught speeding twice.” ...”—Storm Thorgerson, “Eye of The Storm: The Album Graphics of Storm Thorgerson, Sanctuary Publishing, 1999

Artwork by Storm Thorgerson

Dark Side of the Moon – 30th Anniversary – Pink Floyd – 2003

We simply couldn't bring ourselves to hold an exhibition of Storm's work without including a version of the famous prism from Dark Side of the Moon. Arguably, The Dark Side of the Moon cover is Storm Thorgerson's most recognisable album artwork. The 30th Anniversary edition (shown here) captures the constellation of the 3 elements that the original cover in 1973 contained -- madness, lost opportunity and megalomania. As an album, Dark Side of the Moon spent the longest time in the charts by far, fourteen years in Billboard's Top 200, and selling over thirty million copies.



Compliments of CCA Galleries

"When the super audio CD (SACD) of Dark Side of the Moon was made, we felt it was appropriate to redo the original cover in a sympathetic fashion in as much as the sound was remixed in 5.1 surround sound in exquisite quality and definition. As pure a rendition as you could get so we wished to re-express the design its purist fashion. What better than the medium of glass to express an idea about glass and light via a prism. So we made a stain glass window specifically constructed to the proportions of the original design in 1973 and photographed it, backlit by the autumn sun. The imperfections inherent in stain glass were brought out as well as the suspended colours that stain glass provides. A thing of beauty ... or so I thought." – Storm Thorgerson, private interview, 2004.

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The Division Bell – Pink Floyd – 1994

The Division Bell was the first new Pink Floyd album since Momentary Lapse in 1987. A major theme of the album was of contradiction in communication – the distinct presence of it and lack of it. Storm's aim was to create an image that expressed these directly conflicting views. After thrashing around a number of ideas, the Division Bell was born. One will see two heads looking at each other while another will see a single head face-on. This clever illusion is contradictory. Both visualisations are rarely seen simultaneously. The beauty of this image is that everything you see in the photograph is real – the metal heads, cathedral, skyline and landscape ... all are real (and without computer manipulation), especially the sculptures made as high as a house.



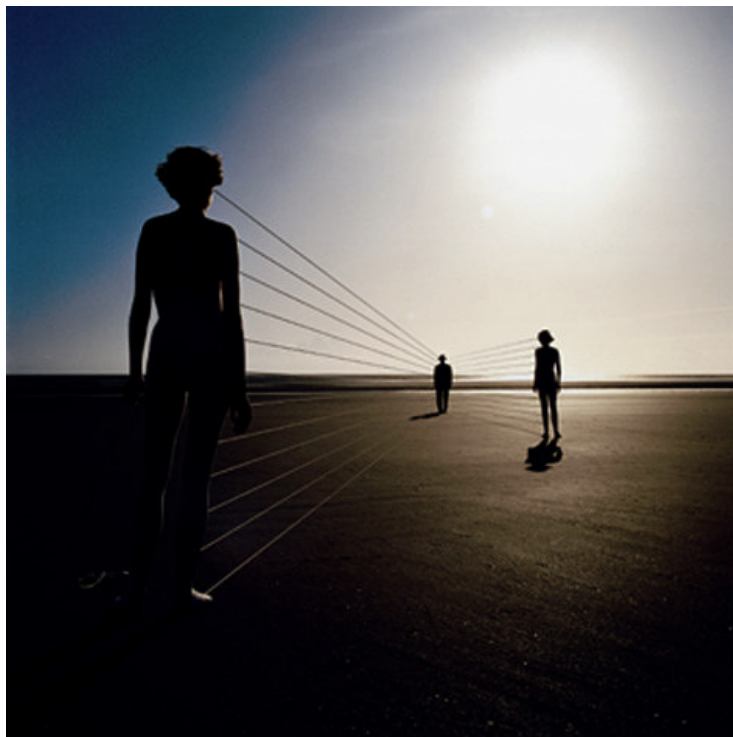
Compliments of Rock Optic

"Contradictory communication. For example, there are bells to alarm as in clock, and bells to celebrate, as in church. There are bells to summon, as in school meals, and bells to warn, as in bicycle. The Division Bell itself is rung to bring Members of Parliament together so that they can be not together, ie divide when voting. More contradictions." -- Storm Thorgerson, "Mind of Matter", Published by Sanctuary Publishing Limited, Third Edition, 2003.

Artwork by Storm Thorgerson

Kindred Spirit – Nigel Kennedy – 1995

Fritz Keiser was a classical violinist of the 20's and the 30's, admired and adored by all. A composer and performer, he played beautifully and original pieces that were simply amazing. Inspired by Keiser, Nigel Kennedy – himself a musical genius -- produced an album of Keiser tracks and concert pieces called "Kindred Spirit". The result was nothing short of a beautiful masterpiece of music. The album cover was cleverly designed around the twin muses in Keiser's life, representing playing and composing; they take shape in the female form. The silhouettes are connected to a male figure, the source itself. Like strings on a violin, all the figures are attached by strings. These symbolise the connection and the commitment to the source. This particular image never made it to the album cover.



Compliments of Rock Archive

"The cover was finished, and even proofed, but the record itself was shelved indefinitely...and then in '98, just as predictably, he changed his mind and released the album after all. However he replaced my picture with a photo of himself, the swine..."

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A Momentary Lapse of Reason – Pink Floyd – 1987

The inspiration for this photograph was from the song 'Yet Another Movie' which had as part of its lyrics 'A vision of an empty bed'. Inspired, Storm had the idea of arranging seven-hundred Victorian hospital beds in a slight curve stretching away from the camera like a 'river bed'. These were envisaged as beds that mad people, ill people or even dreamers may occupy. After setting up the installation (or 'exstallation' as we like to term it), it began to rain, turning grey and producing limited visibility. Storm and his team had to pull the photo-shoot, pack up shop and return two weeks later (after carefully assessing the weather) to take the photograph you see now.



Compliments of Rock Optic

'What you get is what you see: 700 wrought iron beds all individually made up and each weighing several tons, or so it seemed by the end of the day. The photograph ...is a 35mm colour transparency taken when the tide was on the turn and came rushing back, flooding all the beds in the blink of an eye. Wet dream, or what.' -- Storm Thorgerson, "Mind of Matter", Published by Sanctuary Publishing Limited, Third Edition, 2003.

Artwork by Storm Thorgerson

Mr Lovepants – Ian Drury & The Blockheads – 1998

After a 17-year break, Ian Drury returned and unleashed “Mr Lovepants”. Initially christened “Different Strokes”, “Mr Lovepants” found his way to Ian Drury and the rest is history. Almost automatically, Storm had an image in mind.... vivid, bright beaches and a boxer dog! The dog was photographed several times at various locations and in a collection of different designer shorts. The image of the dog was then dropped into a Caribbean background, with artwork of the plane and boat crashing at sea added behind him. Amongst the mayhem, our dog smiles on.



Compliments of CCA Galleries

“...It was the dog’s expression which was crucial. It makes me smile to this day, for there he is grinning at us with quivering nostrils and lascivious eyes, dressed to kill in bright shiny green boxers, as only a boxer should, standing nonchalantly on a beach in Bermuda (as in Bermuda shorts), decorated with triangles (as in Bermuda triangle) and panting (with love) in true boxer style...”—Storm Thorgerson, “Eye of The Storm: The Album Graphics of Storm Thorgerson, Sanctuary Publishing, 1999.

Artwork by Storm Thorgerson

Wish You Were There – Pink Floyd (Single) – 1995

The inspiration for the artwork for this US single stemmed directly from the words of the lyrics, which referred to two lost souls swimming in a fish bowl. The photograph is of a couple looking through two separate fish bowls. Although they are side by side they are apart, swimming alone in their individual bowls. Their faces are distorted to expose grim and severe dispositions. This image is a man-made creation (without any use of computer effects). The best description of this piece comes directly from Storm.



Compliments of Rock Archive

“A dour couple, their faces trapped in a world of their own, confined within the fish bowls, intense and distorted in their separateness. No retouching here, no clever tricks, not pretence. Like the words of the song.” -- Storm Thorgerson, “Mind of Matter”, Published by Sanctuary Publishing Limited, Third Edition, 2003.