

COVER ART

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL - Once upon a time, pre cd's and digital downloads, a music album cover was just as important as the music itself. Vinyl LP's carried what was known as cover art and the inside of the LP would have a poster version of the artist along with all of the lyrics. One day while cleaning out a closet a young cousin was delighted in the reminiscing of what these album covers meant. My sister and I shared with her when we would listen to the album and pour over the art that was contained on the front and back. We also would read all the lyrics found in the inside cover and have discussions on how each song interrelated to one another. It was equally important if the art matched all of the songs or we would find clues in the art for what the lyrics really meant.

It gave the purchaser an opportunity to visually see a representation of what to expect while listening to the rhythm and lyrics. The sound recordings were put together as a body of work centralized around a theme. The visual artist would listen to the music and then create an artistic version of what was heard to match the music.

According to Billboard Magazine;

"Music isn't just about the music. Sure, the sounds are certainly the most essential element, but you can't ignore the role of cover art in making a brilliant album. From the fold-out gatefolds of the vinyl era to pullout liner notes in CD jewel cases to the small icon on a digital player. Cover art has changed over the years, but it still defines how we look at a particular album."



Often the art was centered on the main song on the release; for example the Beatles', *Yellow Submarine*. A few of my favorites are from Earth Wind and Fire, Prince and Stevie Wonder's, *Original Musiquarium*.



The cover art started to fade and almost became extinct when the introduction of cd's and digital downloads (iTunes, Spotify & Google Music) became popular.



In 2003 **Rolling Stone** gave the following synopsis to Stevie Wonders release, *Innervisions*:

"... Stevie Wonder may be blind, but he reads the national landscape, particularly regarding black America, with penetrating insight on *Innervisions*, the peak of his 1972-73 run of albums—including *Music of My Mind* and *Talking Book*. Fusing social realism with spiritual idealism, Wonder brings expressive color and irresistible funk to his synth-based keyboards on "Too High" (a cautionary anti-drug song) and "Higher Ground" (which echoes Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of transcendence). The album's centerpiece is "Living for the City", a cinematic depiction of exploitation and injustice. Just three days after *Innervisions* was released, Wonder suffered serious head injuries and lay in a four-day coma when the car he was traveling in collided with a logging truck."



There is one company that currently is consistent in releasing cover art for its compilations named Putumayo. I have enjoyed these releases and often purchased them because of the cover art.

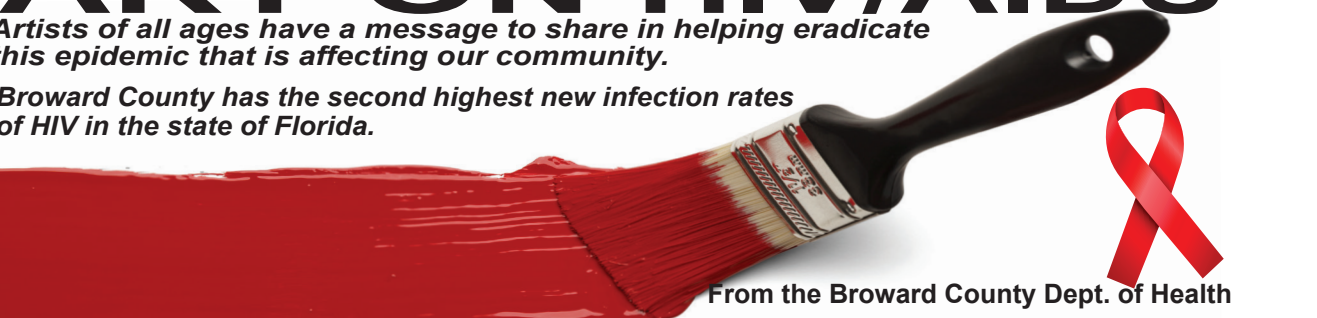
If you are cleaning out the closet and happen to find these LP's you should think twice about throwing out or giving them away. Many collectors are out there who are seeking these artful covers. Stores that cater to the Millennial generation are selling portable record players and vintage LP's.



ART ON HIV/AIDS

Artists of all ages have a message to share in helping eradicate this epidemic that is affecting our community.

Broward County has the second highest new infection rates of HIV in the state of Florida.



From the Broward County Dept. of Health

Florida	United States
A total of 109,969 persons are living with a diagnosis of HIV Infection in Florida through 2014	CDC estimates a total of 933,941 persons living with a diagnosis of HIV infection through 2013
Blacks accounted for:	Blacks accounted for:
47% (n=51,496) of total	43% (n=398,645) of total
38% of adult men and 68% of adult women	37% of adult men and 61% of adult women
79% of the pediatric cases	65% of pediatric cases
27% of MSM (men who have sex with men)	31% of MSM (men who have sex with men)
52% of IDU (Injection Drug User)	52% of IDU (Injection Drug User)
72% of heterosexuals	64% of heterosexuals
57% of AIDS case deaths in 2014	47% of deaths with HIV infections in 2013
According to Florida's 2014 Population Estimates	According to the 2013 US population Estimates,
15% of Florida's population is black	12% of the US population is black.