

# PLAY&DISPLAY®

THE ALBUM & 12" FLIP FRAME®



THE ART OF  
KENT RECORDS  
27 SEPT-10 OCT 2007  
ART VINYL GALLERY  
LONDON

## The Art of Kent Records Exhibition 27 September - 10 October 2007

### The Art Vinyl Gallery

20 Broadway Market, London E8 4PH Tel: 020 7241 4129

### Art Vinyl

The Art Vinyl Gallery on East London's Broadway Market (E8) is a unique space designed to celebrate art & graphic design created especially for vinyl records. The Gallery hosts record cover exhibitions that change every two weeks as different bands, artists or record labels take the opportunity to curate this original space. These exhibitions showcase vinyl cover art which celebrate the synergy that exists between art and music.

### Play & Display

The Play & Display Flip Frame is the ground breaking home framing device which allows music and art enthusiasts to change the contents instantly without taking the frame from the wall. Unique in its design, it is the first framing solution designed to specifically hold vinyl records, accommodating for the differences in album and 12" sizes and giving the owner instant access to the playable contents.

Celebrate the Art of Kent Records with Play & Display Flip Frames available individually for £29.99 or as a triplepack for £69.99 from [artvinyl.com](http://artvinyl.com)

'Art Vinyl Mix Art & Music'





## THE ART OF KENT RECORDS

It was a bit of a surprise to be asked to compile the first Kent LP. The parent record company, Ace, had only been going a couple of years, so it really was a case of keen amateurism. Luckily, one of my DJs at the 6TS soul dances that had started three years before was a real graphic artist. His name was Ian Clark and he was a top Northern Soul

DJ for many years, as well as knowing about fonts and retro styles. It was all cut and paste in those days but with scissors and glue, not a mouse! Looking back at the first cover, we got the lettering and design right but the photo was way too grey. However, the technology was limited and that was probably as good as a drunken snap could be. What we did get right was the energy, enthusiasm and sheer fun of the photo. Those people were obviously having a hoot (and were actually stylishly dressed for the time) and the music on the album could do that for you too; honest guv. The other master stroke was my partner Randy's brother Gil getting his black taxi driver to hang about for a few minutes and then dragging him onto the dancefloor. It might have been the only dance he had in his life but it got the multi-cultural soul image across to wannabe soul people.

The runaway success of the first LP (it was as iconic to mod school-kids and apprentices as Geno's "Hand Clapping, Foot Stomping, Funky Butt. Live" had been for my late 60s mod generation) meant that we had a bit more time, experience and know-how for the second album; and it showed. Ian's artwork improved over the years and his quirky "extras" that he threw onto his 6TS dance flyers, like dominatrixes, middle class 40s squares and random explosions, gave our covers a distinct style. Pressure of work and sheer numbers meant that established sleeve designers were eventually given some of the projects to take the load off Ian and we went back for more to the ones who nailed it.

Ian also helped with the LP titles, and director and project manager Roger Armstrong often came up with themes for the covers. The "Shoes" album was taken literally and showed a collection of the coolest classic footwear that mod disciples could muster, shot by top quality photographers in appropriate settings. Dancers were taken to sometimes unusual venues to get the right effect. Roger arranged for one of the 6TS 100 Club dancers to be whisked away from an all-nighter at 5am to catch the sunrise on Primrose Hill for the "Dancing Til Dawn" cover. Our production head, Carol Fawcett, sourced some classic 60s vintage photos. And Clarkie continued to visualise madmen for "Brainstormers", a sinking Titanic for "Dancefloor Disasters" and the complete paraphernalia of the London Dungeon next to Maxine Brown's unwitting photo for the "Torture" LP.

Sadly, Ian didn't adapt his skills to the computer age; the stingy acreage of a CD cover would have been too limiting for him anyway. We moved on and now take our cover art more seriously as the packages and liner notes have become more knowledgeable with time. Once in a while we let ourselves go and bring back some humour and plain silliness if the CD warrants it. Photo research is better than ever and we have a font for each human emotion, but it's a massive hats off to Ian and his whacky work that launched a thousand compilations.

### Ady Croasdell

Come celebrate Kent's 25th anniversary at The Forum, London, October 19th. The stellar line-up includes Maxine Brown, Tommy Hunt, Mary Love, The Flirtations (Gypsies), Winfield Parker plus Northern Soul DJs Ian Clark, Mick Smith and Ady Croasdell. For more info go to [www.kentishtownforum.com](http://www.kentishtownforum.com), [www.acerecords.co.uk](http://www.acerecords.co.uk), [www.6ts.info](http://www.6ts.info)

'Art Vinyl Mix Art & Music'



FOR DANCERS ONLY  
Design by Ian Clark  
Cover photo by Lu Symons



ON THE UP BEAT  
Design by Ian Clark  
Cover photo of Tom Halvey by Donato Cinicola



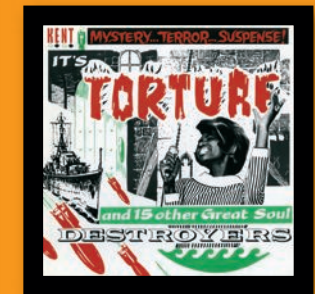
KISSING HER & CRYING FOR YOU  
Design by Ian Clark



YOUNG HOT UNLIMITED - WACK WACK  
Design by David Farrow



DYKE & THE BLAZERS - SO SHARP!  
Design by Phil Smee at Waldo's Design



IT'S TORTURE & 15 OTHER GREAT SOUL DESTROYERS  
Design by Ian Clark  
Typography by Stephen Holden



BRAINSTORMERS  
Design by Ian Clark  
Typography by Stephen Holden



TEARS IN MY EYES  
Design by Ian Clark  
Typography by Stephen Holden



SHOES  
Design by Clark and Armstrong Inc  
Cover photo shows 100 Club Shoe Session