

Press Release
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GENESIS
PUBLICATIONS

Paul Weller

A Thousand Things

A signed and numbered limited edition book and vinyl boxed set



In the year of his 50th birthday, one of Britain's greatest and most-loved songwriters **Paul Weller** shares almost 350 photographs in the latest limited edition book from **Genesis Publications** as he prepares for the next stage of a music career which has lasted over 30 years.

'It does actually feel like an awful long time ago, and it didn't always feel like that. So, I'm casting my mind back, trying to conjure up images of a bygone era. But they are more like flashes – blinding Instamatic pictures. Flash! Blink and you'll miss it.' - Paul Weller

A Thousand Things is the visual history of one of Britain's greatest and most-loved songwriters and a true British icon, Paul Weller. Written and signed by Paul himself, **A Thousand Things** features rare photographs from the Weller family archive, fliers, posters, badges and the work of Paul's favourite photographers. Many of these images have never been published before.

A Thousand Things is designed by Paul's long-time friend Simon Halfon, one of the industry's leading graphic designers and the man responsible for all Paul's record covers since *The Style Council*'s 1993 debut single. The two have worked together closely to choose nearly 350 photographs and items of memorabilia to produce this visually stunning testament to a truly inspirational musical career, as Paul gets set to launch a new album and up-coming tour.

Sifting through thousands of photographic prints, scrapbooks, fliers and posters, Paul has selected a collection of rare and iconic images by some of the most revered names in rock photography – among them Pennie Smith, Nick Knight, Tom Sheehan, Peter Anderson and Lawrence Watson. **A Thousand Things** is presented in three parts to illustrate Paul's incredible career from the earliest days of *The Jam* – with school friend Steve Brookes on guitar – through the new modernism of *The Style Council* to his incredible work as a solo artist, with each section introduced with Paul's personal recollections.



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Limited to just 2,000 copies worldwide, every book is personally autographed by Paul Weller, contains nearly 350 photographs and items of personal memorabilia on 230 pages and comes with an exclusive white label vinyl record featuring four previously unreleased tracks. These recordings by *The Jam* were taken from an original demo tape found by Paul in the vaults of Solid Bond Productions and include the four original demo tracks from early 1977:

Side A: 'In the City' and 'Time for Truth'

Side B: 'So Sad about Us' and 'Sounds from the Street'

'These are the demos that got us the deal with Polydor. As far as I know, they've not even been bootlegged.' – Paul Weller

The recordings have been specially re-mastered by Paul's engineers at Black Barn Studios and pressed on heavyweight vinyl for the best possible sound quality. This record is only available as part of the **A Thousand Things** boxed set.

'Paul Weller is one of the few artists still making music today whose work spans literally, generations of fans,' comments Robby Elson, managing editor of **A Thousand Things**. *'To publish a collection of Weller images would be fantastic on its own - we're fortunate enough to be able to produce a book of his own personal favourites. With the new album coming up, **A Thousand Things** is an incredible testament to the career of one of our best loved artists. It'll be thrilling to see where he goes next.'*

'Here we have a book that both Paul and I are very proud of,' comments Simon Halfon, co-editor of **A Thousand Things** and long-time collaborator of Weller. *'Genesis Publications have given us both a fantastic opportunity to wander down memory lane and find some fine unseen gems along the way. Paul and I have worked on record sleeves together for the last 25 years so this project was pretty special for both of us. In this world of CDs and downloads it's a real treat to see everything at LP size and printed and bound at the usual extremely high standards of Genesis Publications.'*

Printed on heavyweight, acid-free paper, pages are additionally edged in silver, a centuries-old technique that ensures the reproduction quality of your book lasts a lifetime.

Every copy is hand-made using traditional materials. The cover is bound in screen-printed buckram and the spine is a luxurious leather with the title embossed in silver along its length.

The set is housed in a black buckram box, hand-made in Italy, screen-printed and foil-blocked in silver.

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Editor's Notes

Simon Halfon

Simon Halfon began his career in the music business in 1980 working at Stiff Records. This came about thanks to a chance meeting with *Clash* 'right hand man' Kosmo Vinyl. Upon leaving University, Simon again met with Kosmo (who was basing himself out of Stiff Records at the time) with the hope of working for him. Kosmo had no job to offer, but secured Simon gainful employment there and then in the Stiff Records Post Room.

Eighteen months later having jumped from the post room to the Art department, via radio and TV promotions, Simon left Stiff Records. The next stop was to work for a former Stiff Records employee Neville Brody at the offices of the newly formed *Face* magazine. Working for Neville was a steep learning curve and allowed Simon to branch off on his own after six months. Simon started his freelance career in 1982 and it was also at this time that his working relationship with Paul Weller began. *The Jam* had just split and Simon was given the nod to design the sleeves for Paul's new group, *The Style Council*. Their relationship continues to this day.

During the 1980s Simon's portfolio continued to grow, designing record sleeves for the likes of Nick Heyward, John Lennon, *The Who*, *Madness*, Blue Note Records and George Michael. 1990 and the start of a new decade saw a move to Los Angeles, where Simon continued to work with the likes of George Michael and the now solo Paul Weller as well as design work for U.S. acts such as Don Henley, Lenny Kravitz and Paul Simon. During his time in California, and outside the world of design Simon was instrumental in getting British rockers *Future Primitive* a record deal in the States. The band changed their name to *Bush* and eight million copies of their debut album sold in the States alone.

1996 and home beckoned. Returning back to London and Simon had the pleasure of working with Sir Peter Blake on Paul Weller's Stanley Road album cover. As the '90s drew to a close Noel Gallagher picked up the phone and asked Simon to work on the new Oasis album, *Standing On The Shoulder Of Giants*. Almost a decade later Simon and Peter Blake would renew their collaboration to work on Oasis's *Stop The Clocks*.

Through Noel's initial instigation that Simon began to snap away with his little 'point and shoot' 'Yashica' camera. Simon has built up quite a collection of largely unseen photographs capturing the band at various recording video and photo sessions and just 'hanging out' across the world.

Outside of music there has been the occasional dip into the world of book covers, along with a very enjoyable collaboration designing posters for the NFT .

2007 saw Simon produce his feature film, SLEUTH starring Michael Caine and Jude Law. The film was directed by Kenneth Branagh with a screenplay by Harold Pinter.

www.simon-halfon.com

Genesis Publications

Genesis Publications is an independent British publisher specialising in signed, numbered, craftsman-bound limited edition books on modern music. Each title is produced to the highest standard in the tradition of the private press and with the full co-operation of each author or artist concerned, and their autographs signify their approval and authentication of each edition.

Genesis was founded in 1974 by Brian Roylance, a former student at the London College of Printing; his aim to create a company true to the art of printing and craftsmanship. For this reason Genesis books are printed and hand-bound in Italy by top artisans. Brian's son and daughter, Nicholas and Catherine Roylance now run the company.

Genesis Publications has become the world's leading limited edition publisher in the field of modern music, in the last 30 years producing over 50 limited edition collectors' items, featuring pop and rock icons of the 60s, 70s and 80s. Subjects have included The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Who, Bowie, Lennon, George Harrison, Dylan and Pink Floyd founder, Syd Barrett. Authors and/or contributors include: George Harrison, Sir Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Yoko Ono, Eric Clapton, Peter Blake, David Bowie, Keith Richards, Bill Wyman, Mick Jagger, Charlie Watts, Ravi Shankar, Ronnie Wood, Pete Townshend and Sir George Martin. Working with many of the world's leading musicians, artists and writers, Genesis has established a reputation for quality which is second to none, and it was this that led The Beatles to invite Genesis to compile, edit and prepare for press their book *The Beatles Anthology* which was published to acclaim in October 2000.

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