

STASS SHPANIN



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ABOLISHED MEMORIES | 2012

Stass Shpanin, an artist born in the USSR and raised in the United States, uses historic and cultural knowledge to reanalyze and translate historical events without any political predispositions. His paintings are contemporary representations of 19th century history analysis based on cultural memory with the realization of time distortion. Nevertheless, Stass' paintings deal with public history; they are not deprived from human nature but on the contrary based on humanity and personal emotions.

In his artist practice, Stass becomes a visual journalist searching for the true representation of the polyhedral structure of the 19th century social system. His visual language involves military costumes, coat of arms and other symbols of power that were common for all the European aristocracy. Paradoxically, even the representation of the emperors – George V, Wilhelm II and Nicolas II were identical. Being first cousins with similar body types and facial characteristics, moustache and exchanged medals they became, by themselves, the impersonation of the cultural property of the time. Works such as *Nicolas II Playing Tennis*, demonstrates psychology of time and irony of occurring.

Stass artwork conceptually part of postwar European art that wrestles with epoch-defining struggle. Like Gerhard Richter, Anselm Kiefer and Luc Tuymans and other postmodern artists, Stass is captivated finding visual answers to the history which was edited, added and in some tragic cases like the Holocaust – deleted. However, these artists also have similar reliance on archival photography, Stass paintings are not personal, but a visual digestion of history. This topic is especially sensitive today, since the idea of history and memory are directly linked to the present.

Faith Lund, Gallery Curator

**Westfield State University Downtown Art Gallery**



**Westfield**  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
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*Monumentality*, 2011. Oil on Canvas, 24 x 36 inches



*Eastern Front*, 2011. Oil on Canvas, 24 x 36 inches

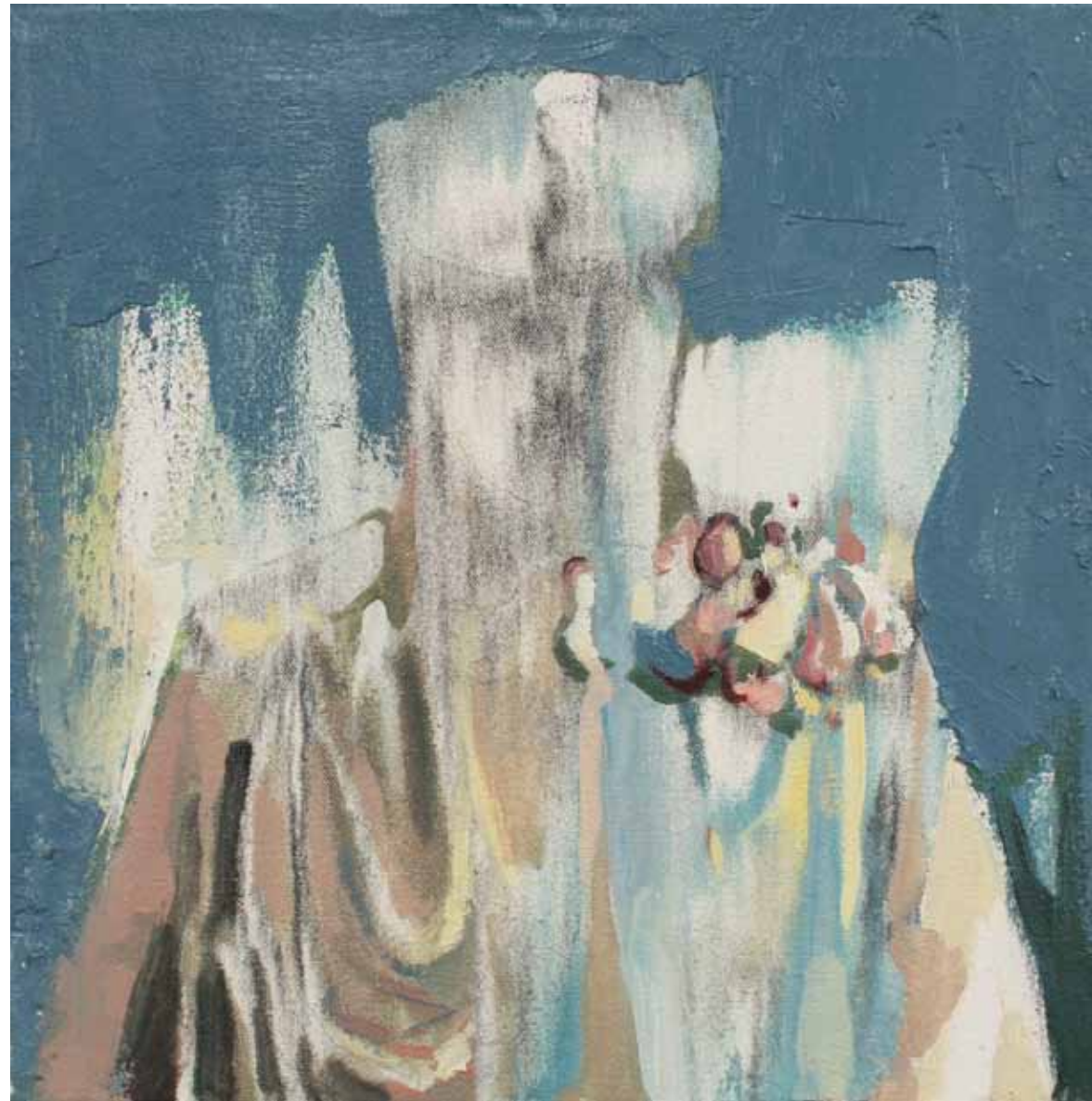


*A Splinter of the Empire*, 2011. Oil on Canvas, 24 x 24 inches



*Internal Conversation*, 2011. Diptych. Oil on Linen, Each: 10 x 12 inches

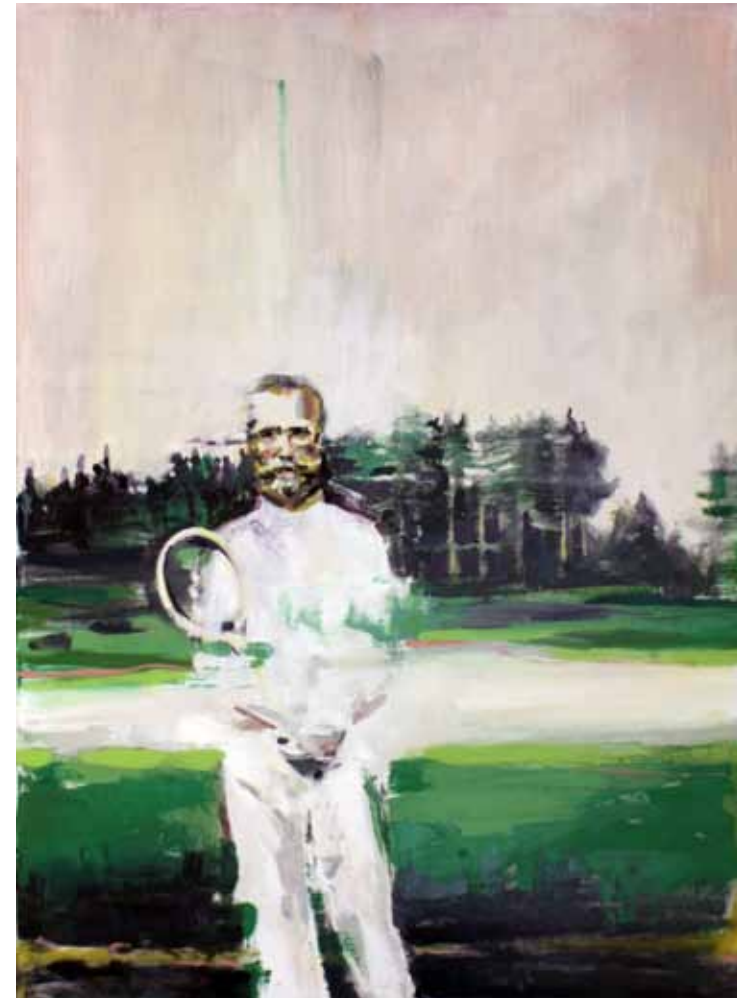




*His Cosmic Majesty*, 2012. Oil on Canvas, 10 x 10 inches



*Collectively Charged*, 2012. Oil on Canvas, 84 x 96 inches



*Nicolas II Playing Tennis*, 2010. Triptych. Oil on Canvas, Each: 48 x 36 inches



*The Golden Moustache*, 2010. Oil on Canvas, 20 x 20 inches



*Three Brides*, 2010. Oil on Canvas, 36 x 36 inches

*The Dichotomy of War*, 2011. Oil on Canvas, 96 x 84 inches







*The Blank Curtain*, 2011. Oil on Canvas, 30 x 24 inches



*Queen Incognito*, 2012. Oil on Canvas, 24 x 24 inches



*The Hegemony of Weakness*, 2011. Oil on Canvas and Glass, 36 x 36 inches

#### Education

Portfolio Lab 2008 School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston/Tufts University  
BFA 2012 Painting University of Hartford

#### Selected Grants/Awards

2011 Alan Tompkins Scholarship Award, University of Hartford, CT  
2010 Wilmarth-Rabineau Scholarship Award, University of Hartford  
2009 "Movers and Shakers", Jewish Ledger Publications  
2009 Anna Ball Pierce Scholarship Award, University of Hartford, CT  
2009 Alan Tompkins Scholarship Award, University of Hartford, CT  
2009 Mayor of Stamford Arts Grant  
2003 International Grand Prize Award, River of Words arts contest affiliated with the Library of Congress, Washington, DC

#### Selected Solo Exhibits

2012 Abolished Memories, Westfield State University Downtown Art Gallery, Westfield, MA  
2011 Age of Empires, Waltuch Art Gallery, Tenafly, NJ  
2011 Age of Empires, From Russia with Art Gallery, Cambridge, MA  
2011 Age of Empires, SJCC Gallery, Springfield, MA  
2010 Art Exhibit, Stamford Center for the Arts, CT  
2009 Art Exhibit, Mid-Westchester JCC Gallery, NY  
2009 Art Exhibit, Center for Jewish History, NY, NY  
2009 Art Exhibit, Jasper Rand Art Museum, Westfield  
2008 Art Exhibit, Stamford JCC Art Gallery, CT  
2007 Art Exhibit, SJCC Gallery, Springfield, MA  
2006 Art Exhibit, Umbria Galleria, Boston, MA  
2003 Art Exhibit, Gallery 44, Elicott City, MD  
2001 Art Exhibit, Netaniya Arts Center, Israel  
2000 Art Exhibit, Salerno Art Center, Italy  
1997 Art Exhibit, Youth Creativity Center, Baku, Azerbaijan

#### Selected Group Exhibits

2012 From Russia with Art, Newton Cultural Center, Newton, MA  
2011 Juried Goldfarb Exhibit, Joseloff Gallery, University of Hartford, CT  
2010 Juried Art Exhibit, Manchester CC, CT  
2009 Russian Block, Greater Hartford JCC Gallery, CT  
2008 Permanent Exhibit, Museum of Contemporary Russian Art, Jersey City, NJ  
2001 Junior UNESCO Exhibit, Troya, France

#### Selected Bibliography

2011 Artscope online, Boston, MA  
2011 Northern Valley Press, Englewood, NJ  
2011 The Republican Newspaper, Springfield, MA  
2011 Somerville Journal, Somerville, MA  
2010 Hartford Courant Newspaper, Hartford, CT  
2010 Jewish Ledger Newspaper, West Hartford, CT  
2010 Hadassah Magazine, NY, NY  
2009 Krugazor Magazine, Boston, MA  
2009 Russkaya Reklama Magazine, NY, NY  
2009 Stamford Plus Newspaper, Stamford, CT  
2009 The Reminder Newspaper, East Longmeadow, MA  
2009 Azerbaijan Izvestia Newspaper, Baku, Azerbaijan  
2009 Evening News, Westfield, MA  
2008 The Advocate Newspaper, Stamford, CT  
2008 For Parents Magazine, NJ  
2008 The Stamford Times Newspaper, Stamford, CT  
2007 Russian World Newspaper, Springfield, MA  
2007 Krugazor Magazine, Boston, MA  
2006 The Republican Newspaper, Springfield, MA  
2005 Izvestia Newspaper, Moscow, Russia  
2006 Predvestnik Newspaper, Springfield, MA  
2004 IRS International Magazine, Baku, Azerbaijan  
2004 National Geographic Magazine, Washington, DC  
2003 The Washington Post, Washington, DC  
2003 Minyan Magazine, Moscow, Russia  
2003 The Republican Newspaper, Springfield, MA  
2003 The Sun Newspaper, Washington, DC

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