

Biography

Stass Shpanin was born in 1990 Baku, USSR. At the age of 13, he moved to Massachusetts in the United States, where he has become interested in the history of the Imperial Russia era that was forbidden and distorted in the USSR for nearly all of the XX century. During his studies at the Hartford Art School, University of Hartford, Shpanin created a project titled *Trialectics*, where he combined different layers of history in united monumental compositions. After graduating with University Honors in 2012, Shpanin travelled to Russia on a U.S. Fulbright fellowship, where he both continued his visual research of pictorial representations of the past and explored his personal relationship to the history of pre-revolution Russia. During his Fulbright project, Stass Shpanin had an internship at the PhD department of the Surikov Institute of the Russian Arts Academy. His current work highlights international historical conflicts through visual tensions created by manipulating historical photographs, artifacts, coat of arms and natural elements.

Shpanin has exhibited work in the United States, Italy, France, Israel and Russia. His work is in the collections of the Jasper Rand Art Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Russian Art, and the museum of Maccabi Games, as well as numerous private collections, including former U.S. President George W. Bush and President Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan. In 2014, Shpanin became a member of the Board of Trustees of the Hartford Art School, University of Hartford.

Stass Shpanin taught and lectured in different institutions including Westfield State University, Hartford Art School of the University of Hartford and the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology (collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology MIT). Shpanin continues his graduate studies at the Tyler School of Art, Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Currently, Stass Shpanin works in both the United States and Russia.