



Press release

Monday 22 November 2021

Marvel concept designer and illustrator awarded honorary Masters degree by Leeds Arts University

Adi Granov, a leading illustrator and concept designer who works on the Marvel Cinematic Universe for Marvel Studios and for Marvel comics, is set to receive an honorary Master of Arts degree from Leeds Arts University.

Adi Granov will be recognised by Leeds Arts University during a graduation ceremony at the University on Thursday 25 November.

Originally from Bosnia, Adi Granov is most notable for his work on the Marvel Cinematic Universe for Marvel Studios and also for Marvel comics. He moved to the United States with his family before eventually making his home in Ilkley, Yorkshire. Adi trained in the fine arts and computer graphics, and started his career as an editorial illustrator and a concept artist at Nintendo.

Adi illustrated the seminal Iron Man: Extremis graphic novel which inspired the Iron Man movies and helped kick start the Marvel Cinematic Universe. He served as a conceptual illustrator on the Iron Man films, The Avengers, Avengers: Infinity War, and Endgame as well as Black Panther 1 and 2, designing characters and creating key frame illustrations. He has designed and illustrated for video games including Spiderman PS4 and Iron Man VR, and illustrated countless covers and illustrations for most of their roster of characters, from Avengers to the X-Men, as well as helping launch the Marvel Star Wars comics, most notably with covers for the Darth Vader series and the original trilogy books.

Adi Granov said: *"Art is challenging, can be frustrating, and is also immensely rewarding and beautiful. I have dedicated my life to it, so I am very honoured to be receiving the award, but even more so to be a small part in the journey of the artists embarking on their new careers and the pursuit to make the world a better place."*

Professor Simone Wonnacott, Vice-Chancellor, Leeds Arts University said: *"We are honoured to present this year's honorary Master of Arts degree to Adi Granov. As our first cohort of illustrators, graphic novelists and creature designers graduate from their master's degrees I hope they will be inspired by Adi's incredible achievements. With an international reputation and leading roles for household names such as Marvel he is an inspiring example of where a career in the arts can lead."*

This year's graduation ceremony also coincides with the launch of the Leeds Arts University's online-only postgraduate degree show. Featuring work from students graduating in MA Animation, MA Creature Design, MA Digital Fashion, MA Creative Practice, MA Fine Art, MA Graphic Design, MA Graphic Novel, MA Illustration and MA Photography, *Leeds Arts University Postgraduate 2021 Show* will be hosted on the University website from Thursday 25 November 2021 – Monday 31 January 2022 at <https://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/postgraduate-2021-show/>.

ENDS

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Image credit: Courtesy of Adi Granov.

Further images can be downloaded here: <https://we.tl/t-6OepZYfoLR>

Listings information:

Leeds Arts University Postgraduate 2021 Show
25 November 2021 – 31 January 2022
<https://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/postgraduate-2021-show/>

Notes to editors:

About Leeds Arts University

Founded in 1846 as the Leeds Government School of Art and Design, Leeds Arts University has contributed significantly to the development of art education in Britain and across the world. In 2016 the University was granted Taught Degree Awarding Powers, and in 2017 was awarded full university status, making it the only specialist arts university in the North of England.

Leeds Arts University has been recognised for its industry-standard facilities at the Whatuni awards (winners in 2019 and 2016, runner up in 2020), and was announced winner for Student Support in 2020. The University was number one for Design & Crafts in the Guardian University League Table 2019 and the winner of The Sunday Times 'University of the Year for Student Retention' 2019.

In 2021 Leeds Arts University appointed acclaimed musician Skin to the role of Chancellor.