

Pascal Dombis
Time Spirals
 The Cat Street Gallery
 Until Jan 20

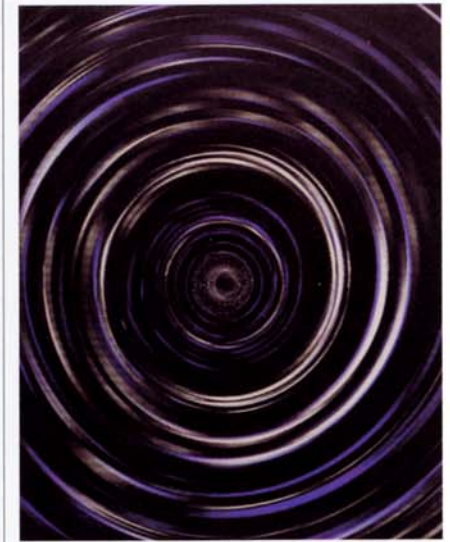
GOING FOR A SPIN

With French Multimedia Artist
 Pascal Dombis

By Glen Watson

When Pascal Dombis opened his site-specific *Time Spirals* video installations, lenticular prints, large drawings and other prints at The Cat Street Gallery in December, transfixed people could be seen standing still outside on Hollywood Rd watching his video being shown on one of the gallery's large windows. A large 2.7m by 9m spiral print called *Spin* can also be seen on a wall inside.

Venturing into the gallery, it's interesting that many of his works make the audience sway, left to right or right to left, from one foot to the other. Ah, these would be the lenticular prints that combine layers of images and colours to produce something very similar to those Cracker Jack "holograms" we remember getting as kids.



Spin (B412)
 Lenticular pigment print, laminated on dibon and frame
 Unique piece
 55 x 70 cm
 2007

Dombis uses computers and algorithms to produce excessive repetition of simple processes, such as a geometrical motif. He works in video and lenticular prints, as well as digital and mural prints. Painting, he says, is "too cold and flat".

I jumped at the chance to meet Dombis, see his work and then go for a fantastic Vietnamese lunch with him, his wife and a mutual friend in Sheung Wan. A key work in *Time Spirals* is *CensorZip*, which contains a mass of overlaid images drawn from a Google keyword search that would be censored in China but is permitted in Hong Kong. ▶



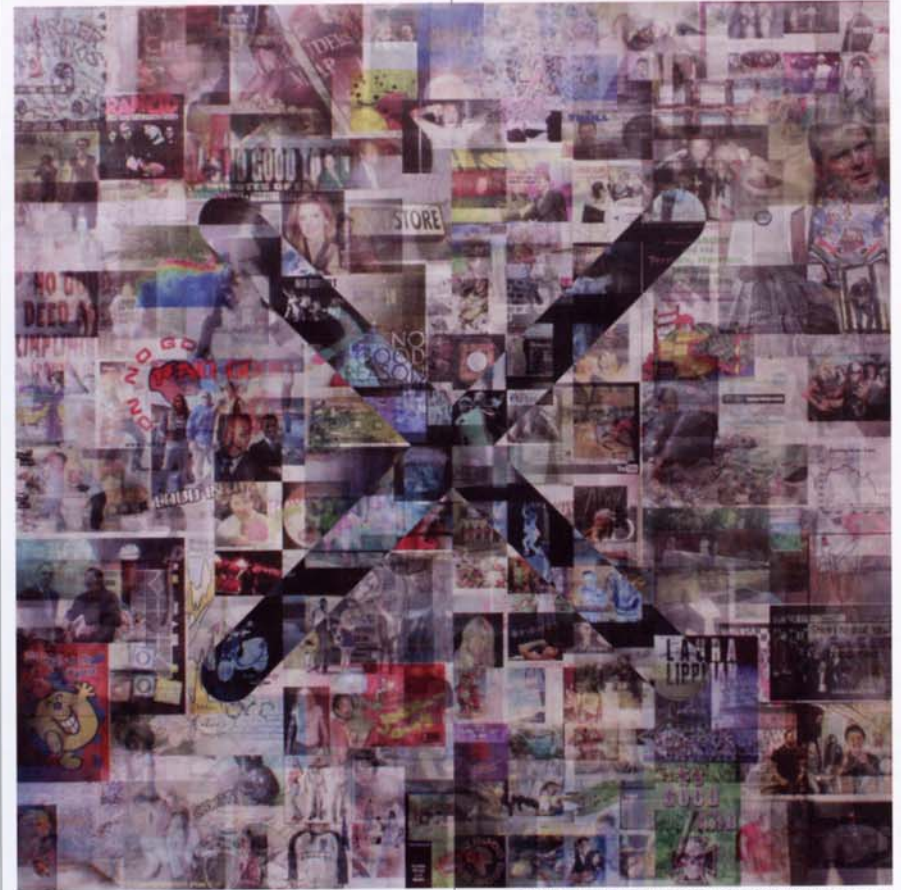
Good, Lenticular pigment print, laminated on dibon and frame
Unique piece, 110 x 110 cm, 2009

My favourite works are the lenticular prints, which have digital images covered with optical lenses (lenticulars) that change as the viewer moves or the angle of vision changes. Another hypnotizing work is *Spin (Double)*, an abstract video work with circles moving around on two monitors.

"In all my work, I'm not using the lenticular [technology] the way it should be used. Nor-

mally there's five, six or seven images. I'm using many more and creating unexpected effects," Dombis says. "It makes you move and use several points of view."

Two of his lenticular works feature the words WAR in blue and OUF (French slang for 'crazy') in red, while others feature a large X and O (bad and good). Layered behind them are many, many images relating to the words or letters.



No Good, Lenticular pigment print, laminated on dibon and frame
Unique piece, 110 x 110 cm, 2009

Many of his works are "unexpected" in that the end results are a surprise to Dombis. This happens with the lenticular works, as well as the computer-generated spirals in his videos and prints.

It's worth going to see his work in person. You won't be able to stand still, but you will be surprised. ■

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