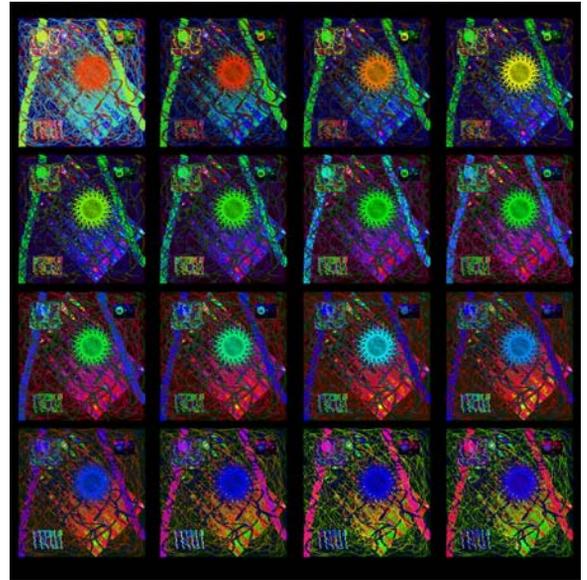


The Bebirian Art Collection

Over 169,00 digital works by one artist, Walter Paul Bebirian

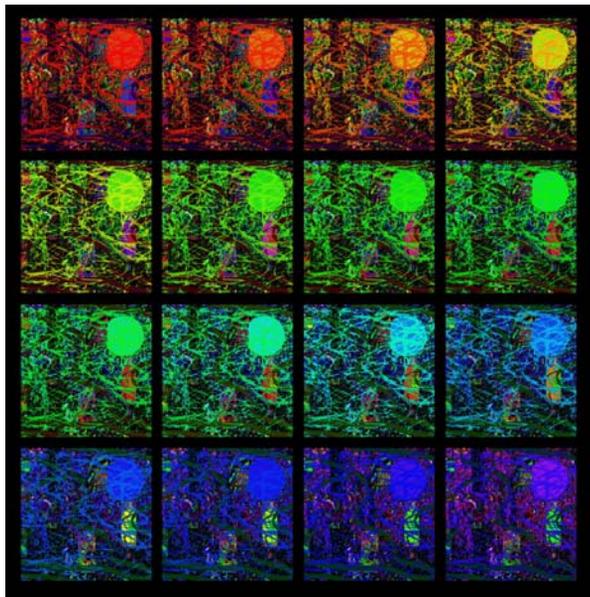
Beth Waldman

You may think of collections being comprised of the work of many artists, created over years by a collector, but for Walter Paul Bebirian, *The Bebirian Art Collection* is a collection of work created by the artist himself. To date, the collection includes over 169,000 images of digital artworks. These works are intended to be presented together as a series in a digital format. Since his discovery of an allergic reaction to pigment and paint in 2001, Bebirian has dedicated himself to working with digital media. Working out of New York City since the 1950s during the explosion of the American Pop Movement led by Andy Warhol, Bebirian was surrounded by a world full of repetition, non-representational colors, and forward thinking. While these creative elements cross-pollinated into



Walter Paul Bebirian, 2011 Digital Media Series

Bebirian's work, conceptually he was on a path of his own. Inspired by the surrealists such as Arshile Gorky, Bebirian has always reached into the subconscious realm. By rediscovering and reinventing the same image with color, Bebirian invites his viewers into almost a hypotonic state. As the colors shift and morph, you begin to see things that are not there, or are they? Bebirian's abstract works use line,

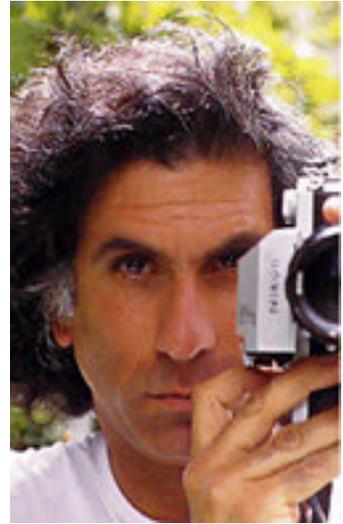


Walter Paul Bebirian, 2012 Digital Media Series

shape and color to enter the viewer's subconscious. The intentional repetition at times mimics the biological structure of the eye and of the mind. Contrary to the Pop Artists, this collection seeks to connect to its viewers' mental space where there is the potential to connect with something greater than oneself. He invites the viewers to launch themselves into these spaces again and again to perhaps connect with something beyond the everyday, something greater, somewhere full of potential. Bebirian has defined this abstract subconscious world as *Volord Kingdom*. As a collection, they speak of the many elements that interconnect us all on a subconscious level. Within this collection of over 169,000 works, Bebirian brings in images of nature treated with the same repetitious and color altered manner as the abstract works. At times, he surprises us with a

portrait of a woman or man, flower or mountain, in color, sepia or black and white. Who these people are we do not know; where these places are, it does not matter. It is the interplay of how these works all work together that speaks to a larger concept. It is the interweaving of these elements that almost serve as memories to our minds to which his work attempts to reach.

Coming from a background as a commercial photographer, Walter Paul Bebirian has embedded himself in a world of images for decades. To him, there is a continuum that he is a part of with his work that he is participating in 24 hours a day, with his creative process, with the way he offers his work through the digital network which the world wide web presents to us all, and with the way he covets the subtle changes that can occur at any moment. Bebirian has grabbed the digital media horns and says to us all, there is a new way for all intentional and unintentional viewers to be part of *Volord Kingdom*. The pathway to this *Kingdom* is through his art. He envisions that one day, *The Bebirian Art Collection* will be presented as a unified digital media installation. From his article *The Greatest Idea the World Has Ever Known*, I will leave you with Bebirian's own words:



All throughout the history of mankind - ideas have been entering the minds of men and women and they have, with the help of their subconscious minds, been directed, along every step of the way, and been given the information needed to know how to move towards and to know exactly how to achieve the materialization of these ideas, which are, in reality, given to him or her, through this subconscious mind as well. – Walter Paul Bebirian