

*In celebration of the year of the
Black Water Dragon,
Selva Studios proudly presents*

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The Legend of the Koi Series

Local Artist
MaryAnn Selva
Watercolor Artist

In Japanese folklore, the Koi fish represents the overcoming of obstacles, because the Koi fish travels up the Rainbow River and when it comes to the end of the river it transforms into the dragon; thus overcoming the adversity represented by the strong river to fulfill its own destiny.

The Legend of the Rainbow River

Japanese legend has it that every year thousands of Koi, a courageous, strong, and dedicated fish, make a perilous and difficult journey up the Rainbow River. Out of perhaps a million Koi, only once in many years, one Koi is dedicated and strong enough to swim all the way to the head of the river, known as "The Dragon Gate" (or "The Rainbow Gate"). Against all odds he reaches the head of the River and leaps from the water, and is then transformed into a full fledged dragon.

In general Koi are associated with good luck.

Enjoy the luck of the Koi fish, overcoming obstacles and fly with the power of the Black Water Dragon for 2012. The Legend of the Koi Series, Giclée prints are now available. Take advantage of the Koi's success and good fortune. Order online at selvastudios.com today!

The Legend of the Koi Series available at selvastudios.com



In Koi Evolution I and II, I chose to represent the Koi in a somewhat loose and abstract manner. More developed in some areas, less defined and obscured by the water in others. They are in a growth motion as indicated by the swirling movements of the blue and green waters. Yet they are contained by a stone wall, representative of life's obstacles and challenges. However, the

Koi Dragon exists simultaneously with the stone wall (look closely), reminding us that we can overcome all challenges we are presented with. Both of these paintings are filled with opposite and balance; dark and light, clear and vague. The straight sharp lines of the wall contrast with the circular motion of the waters. The black edge of the wall is met with the pure white of the paper. I tore away the paper edges, just as we tear away our challenges and grow.

Copper finishes the edges to bring total balance to the Koi Evolution with all five elements being represented.



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Inspired by the Light