

selva studios

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Press Release from Selva Studios:

Local artist, MaryAnn Selva

Chinese New Year 2012

The year of the Black Water Dragon



The New Year celebration is the longest and most important in the Chinese calendar. This year will be 4710. The celebration will begin with the first new moon of the year on January 23rd and continue until February 7th with the full moon. In China, people may take weeks of holiday from work to prepare for and celebrate the New Year.

According to Chinese Five Element Astrology Calendar, 2012 is the Year of Water Dragon. The color of Water in the Five Elements system is related to Black. Therefore we can say 2012 is a Black Dragon, Water Dragon or Black Water Dragon year. If you were born in 2000, 1989, 1977, 1965, 1953, 1941, or 1929 after the first new moon of the year, you too are a Dragon, but each year has a different color and element.

Chinese Astrology is a Balance Theory of Five Elements. Each animal of the Chinese zodiac is connected to one of the Five Elements (water, wood, fire, earth, metal). The Black Water Dragon carries the elemental energies of water, wood, and fire.

The Chinese Zodiac

Legend has it that in ancient times, Buddha asked all the animals to meet him on Chinese New Year. Twelve came, and Buddha named a year after each one. The twelve animals who came were the snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, boar, rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, and the dragon. Buddha assigned each one to oversee a year, cycling through the Five Elements throughout time. He announced that the people born in each animal's year would have some of that animal's personality. Those born in dragon years are innovative, brave, and passionate. Salvador Dali, John Lennon, and Mary-Louise Parker were all born in the year of the dragon.

Think about the dragon! It is the only animal in the Chinese zodiac that is a creature of myth and legend. The dragon is so special and revered that it is traditionally the symbol of the rulers of China.

In Chinese astrology the dragon is seen as a powerful almighty king because it is made up of different parts of animals. Even today, the Chinese associate the dragon with power and wisdom. The dragon is said to be coated with mysterious colors and to possess supernatural powers and is the only member of the zodiac which can fly. Dragons move like lightning and whirlwinds and are totally unpredictable - much like the weather. Therefore, we should expect the unexpected in 2012.

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Inspired by the Light

*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.

*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.



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!

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