



Call for Submissions

“2025 Lunar New Year Celebration at the Walterdale”

Guo Nian

Gōng xǐ fā cái

(May you be happy and prosperous)

We are looking for a group of artists who are interested in exploring the animal symbols of the Lunar zodiac, for an exhibition at the Walterdale Theater. The exhibition will run February 5 – 15, 2025 (opening Tuesday February 4th from 7pm to 8pm, followed by a preview of the play) in conjunction with the play “*King of the Yeas*” and the beginning of the *Year of the Snake*. The exhibition will include approximately 20 two-dimensional works in any media focusing on the 12 symbolic animals of the Asian zodiac. Each participant will select or be assigned one or more animals or years in the 12-year cycle (depending on the number of artists chosen to participate). If you would like to be considered for the exhibition, please submit your resume, a statement on what you might like to explore in works for the exhibition, and up to 5 images, representative of your studio practice.

Open to all Albertan artists over 18 years of age. Submissions will be accepted in pdf format only via www.albertasocietyofartists.com

IMPORTANT DATES

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: October 15, 2024, 11:59 PM

Notification of participation: November 1, 2024

Images of finished works as well as all label information: January 15, 2025

Finished work delivered for installation in Edmonton: Sunday February 2, 2025 1:00pm

VENUE

Walterdale Theatre
10322 83 Ave. NW
Edmonton, AB

Exhibition: February 5-15, 2025

Opening Reception: Tuesday, January February 4, 2025, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Background

Lunar New Year is a major festival celebrated in several Asian countries and by diaspora communities around the world. It marks the beginning of the new year in the lunar calendar or lunisolar calendar, which are based on both the moon and the sun. Lunar New Year begins with the first new moon of the lunar calendar and ends 15 days later, on the first full moon.

Chinese New Year is the grandest ancient traditional festival in China, commonly known as "Guo Nian". This festival means the beginning of spring and the arrival of the new year. The customs of Chinese New Year include sticking Spring Festival couplets, buying New Year's goods, and having family dinner together.

The Chinese zodiac is a traditional classification scheme based on the Chinese calendar that assigns an animal and its reputed attributes to each year in a repeating twelve-year cycle. In traditional Chinese culture, the Chinese zodiac is very important and exists as a reflection of Chinese philosophy and culture. Chinese folkways held that one's personality is related to the attributes of their zodiac animal. Originating from China, the zodiac and its variations remain popular in many East Asian and Southeast Asian countries.

Identifying this scheme using the generic term "zodiac" reflects several superficial similarities to the Western zodiac: both have time cycles divided into twelve parts, each label at least the majority of those parts with names of animals, and each is widely associated with a culture of ascribing a person's personality or events in their life to the supposed influence of the person's particular relationship to the cycle. The 12 Chinese zodiac animals in a cycle are not only used to represent years in China, but also believed to influence people's personalities, career, compatibility, marriage, and fortune.