

Porcelain artworks celebrate the Year of the Dragon

Dong Hong and Ye Fengting

THE latest porcelain artworks by renowned Shanghai painter Yu Xiaofu are on display at the North Hongqiao Art Museum in Jiading.

The exhibition features 20 porcelain plates and 38 porcelain vases.

The highlight of this series of artworks lies in the combination of painting and porcelain craftsmanship.

Yu created anthropomorphic dragons in Shanghai style on the pieces, with their bodies and facial expressions resembling those of humans. Some dragons are depicted contemplating with sheet music in hand, some playing the saxophone, and some leisurely riding bicycles.

His inspiration came from his previous work, which he serialized in the Xinmin Evening News, a popular newspaper in Shanghai, more than a decade ago.

"I always reminisce about the days when I contributed to that newspaper column, missing the cartoon characters I created," he said.

"As this year is the Year of the Dragon, I want to incorporate the element of dragon into them."

After Yu finished painting on the porcelain pieces, Hong Jinsong, a skilled craftsman from Jingdezhen, known as the "porcelain capital" of China, with more than 30 years of experience, glazed them with a thick



Yu Xiaofu pauses thoughtfully before applying his brush to the porcelain vase. — Photos by Dong Hong

layer to enhance their durability.

Then, the pieces were fired by Zhang Wenliang, a porcelain master boasting over 40 years of expertise. To achieve optimal coloring effects, he constantly adjusted the damper to regulate the oxygen intake, keeping a temperature of around 1,300 degrees Celsius in the kiln.

After a full 12 hours of firing, the porcelain works with a smooth glaze and delicate texture can be unloaded from the kiln.

Date: Through late April (closed on Mondays), 9:30am-4:30pm

Venue: North Hongqiao Art Museum

Address: Bldg 13, 88 Jingyu Avenue, Jiading District
嘉定区景域大道88号13幢



A porcelain plate adorned with whimsical cartoon figures and a playful dragon illustrated by Yu Xiaofu



A square porcelain plate featuring dragons

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Yu Xiaofu
A Shanghai painter

Intangible cultural heritage works on display

Li Lanyu and Ye Fengting

THE "Dragon Soaring Across the Seas" exhibition, featuring intangible cultural heritage creative works, is being held in Jiading to celebrate the Year of the Dragon.

The event is jointly organized by the Jiading Cultural Center and the intangible cultural heritage office of the district.

The exhibition showcases various national, municipal and district-level intangible cultural heritage items, including Jiading bamboo carving and Anting *yaoban* cloth (also called the blue-and-white cloth).

Apart from creations by inheritors of intangible cultural heritage and traditional artists, there are also distinctive pieces crafted by ordinary residents, highlighting their skill and innovation.

There is a handcrafted beaded dragon-shaped ornament, a dragon toy made from *yaoban* cloth, and a plate adorned with a Shanghai-style dragon pattern.

The diversity of the dragon element

attracted many visitors.

"Seeing such a diverse collection of intangible cultural heritage works related to the dragons all at once, I strongly feel a festive mood for the Year of the Dragon," said a visitor

surnamed Zhang.

There are also practical items such as fruit trays, suitable for everyday use.

"It is our hope that more people will engage in the promotion of traditional culture, showcasing the innovation, diversity, and contemporary relevance of Jiading's intangible cultural heritage," said Xi Jia, deputy director of the district cultural center.

Date: Through February 29

Venue 1: Intangible Cultural Heritage Hall, Jiading Cultural Center

Time: 8:30am-8pm

Address: 33 Taxi Road
塔秀路33号

Venue 2: Jiading Bamboo Carving Museum

Time: 8:30am-5pm (closed on Mondays)

Address: 2F, 349 South Street
南大街349号2层



A set of dragon and phoenix fruit trays for daily use — Li Lanyu