

Lunar Lanterns light up the harbour

Sydney welcomed the Year of the Rat with the popular Lunar Lanterns.

A breath-taking outdoor exhibition of illuminated sculptures featuring the 12 lunar zodiac animals is now on display at Sydney's Circular Quay.

This year the City of Sydney unveiled four new zodiacs for the 2020 Sydney Lunar festival Lunar Lanterns display: the Rat, Rooster, Rabbit and Horse.

The 2020 Lunar Lanterns have been captured in a stunning photo gallery, with images and captions below. Hi res and online versions are available for editorial use. Please see usage and credit details at the end.

IMAGE 1: Year of the Rat



Caption:

Artist Claudia Chan Shaw's golden glowing rats resemble windup toys, reflecting their busy, industrious nature.

"I hope people enjoy the rat lantern – they're very approachable, very friendly robots. It's not something that you need to stand back and observe, you're meant to get up close and play," said Ms Chan Shaw.

Credit: Katherine Griffiths/City of Sydney

IMAGE 2: The Rooster



Caption:

Sydney Lunar Festival curator Valerie Khoo's new design celebrates Sydney's diversity.

"I wanted to create an artwork that resembles how Sydney is made up of so many different cultures, people, ideas and histories. The ovoid lights represent all those unique identities," said Ms Khoo.

Credit: Katherine Griffiths/City of Sydney

IMAGE 3: The Rabbit



Caption:

Nancy Liang and Fiona Lu created the 5 metre Rabbit in the style of Chinese paper-folding. The drawings on the 'paper' evoke the wrappers of traditional candy, harking back to the artists' childhoods and New Year treats.

"As an Australian-born Chinese, it's an honour to be able to express the Chinese culture we experienced growing up in Sydney, and share it with the city we live in," Ms Liang said.

Credit: Katherine Griffiths/City of Sydney

IMAGE 4: The Horse



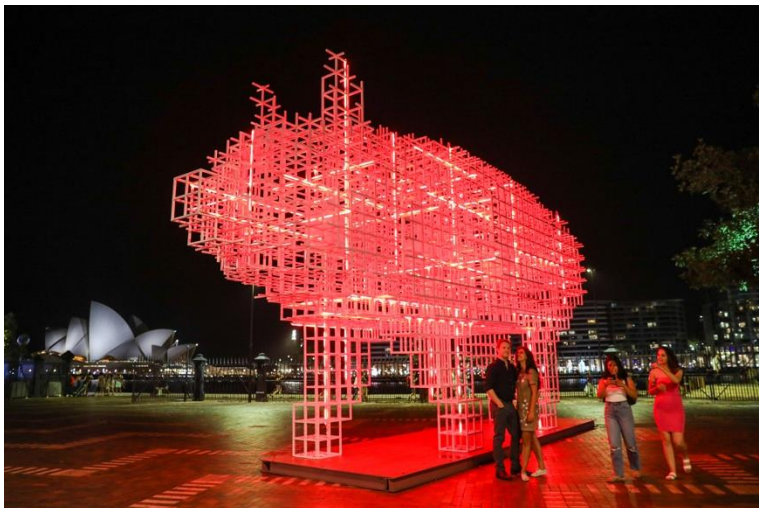
Caption:

Designed by the first Korean–Australian artist to take part in the exhibition, Min-Woo Bang's 6 metre tall twin Horses are inspired by traditional village guardian sculptures that ward off demons. They're covered in vibrant Korean floral patterns and feature a glowing heart.

"My lantern encapsulates old and new brought together. The Horses celebrate the New Year with beautiful traditional Korean colours and patterns, contrasted with modern robotic shapes that point to advances in technology in the coming years," Mr Bang said.

Credit: Katherine Griffiths/City of Sydney

IMAGE 5: The Pig



Caption:

The deconstructed three-dimensional grid has been carved out to form an abstract silhouette of a pig by artist Qian Jian Hua. Lighting up the western boardwalk of the Sydney Opera House. The sculpture was first unveiled in 2019 to mark the Year of The Pig.

Credit: Katherine Griffiths/City of Sydney

IMAGE 6: The Monkey



Caption:

Sydney born artist Louise Zhang's impressive 8-metre-tall monkey tower is located at Cadman's Cottage. The playful monkeys balance on top of each other juggling small glowing peaches, with a large golden peach at the top to represent long life.

Credit: Katherine Griffiths/City of Sydney

IMAGE 7: The Dog



Caption:

Artist Song Ling's dog lantern is painted in bright primary colours and floats between past, present and future.

Credit: Credit: Katherine Griffiths/City of Sydney

IMAGE 8: The Dragon



Caption:

Beijing-born artist Guan Wei's impressive Loong (Dragon) is an emblem of Chinese culture, representing power and mysticism. In this lantern, a little boy retrieves a jewel from Loong's mouth, enabling Loong to spit water and bring rain to the land. Symbols on each side of Loong signify a relationship with local Australian culture.

Credit: Credit: Katherine Griffiths/City of Sydney

IMAGE 9: The Tiger



Caption:

Malaysian-born Kevin Bathman is an artist and graphic designer who has worked in Sydney, Auckland and Kuala Lumpur. His majestic lion lantern bears the sign for “King” on its forehead. In the zodiac tradition, the tiger is a born leader and is characterised as enthusiastic, courageous and ambitious.

Credit: Credit: Katherine Griffiths/City of Sydney

IMAGE 10: The Sheep



Caption:

The Electric Sheep pays homage to the ancient tradition of applying paper cut designs to lanterns. Created by Brisbane-born artist Pamela Mei-Leng See, the 2.5 metre sheep lantern is a nod to a Philip K Dick sci-fi novel 'Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep'. LED dragon dancers perform in front of the sheep lantern.

Credit: Credit: Katherine Griffiths/City of Sydney

11: The Ox



Caption:

The powerful Ox lantern brings together two cyphers in Chinese heritage, the Ox and the Scholar Rock, emanating as one in a symbolic surge of strength and knowledge. Artist Lauren Tan lives and works in Wollongong, Beijing and Las Vegas.

Credit: Credit: Katherine Griffiths/City of Sydney

IMAGE 12: The Snake



Caption:

Inspired by the traditional art of Chinese kite-making, the golden snake lantern flies above the public as a representation of prosperity and wealth. Chinese happiness symbols in the eyes are a symbol of good fortune for the coming year. The snake is created by amigo and amigo, a Sydney-based lighting and design studio co-founded by Simone Chua and Renzo B Larriviere.

Credit: Credit: Katherine Griffiths/City of Sydney

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