

Cross-Cultural Creativity

Nepalese artist's first solo exhibition in Hong Kong explores the confluence of nature, cultures and symbolism.

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Studio view of Wu Xing: Five Elements with Stupa for Hong Kong and mixed media paintings, 2011

Opening on 5 January at Sundaram Tagore Gallery, Nepalese artist Jyoti Duwadi's will present his first solo exhibition in Hong Kong, entitled 'Wu Xing: Five Elements.'

In 'Wu Xing: Five Elements,' the artist explores the five traditional Chinese elements which represent the fundamental forms of energy – earth, water, fire, metal and wood – in a collection of drawings, paintings and sculpture, synthesising his South Asian roots with contemporary Western art.

Inspired by the advent of the Year of the Dragon, Duwadi offers up a multi-media installation that plays to a variety of our senses – smell, sound, sight and touch – using natural materials and objects like bamboo baskets and vessels from Hong Kong and Nepal, teasing our senses to engage with his creations.

A sculpture titled 'Year of the Dragon 2012' is one of the installation's centerpieces. Wrapping one of the gallery's own columns with a variety of materials, the artist evokes the spirit of the dragon and its snake-like form, adding scents of Beeswax and sprigs of juniper.

A singing bowl, one of components of the sculpture 'Stupa for Hong Kong,' invites visitors to have a go at composing soothing tones with the wooden mallet, welcoming the New Year and heightening the meditative atmosphere of the space.

The artist currently divides his time between his studio in Washington, USA, and Kathmandu, Nepal, where he pioneered public art installations that address political and environmental issues – and will be present for the opening cocktail reception on Thursday 5 January 2012, from 7-9pm.

Exhibition runs from 5 January – 5 February 2011.

Sundaram Tagore Gallery, 57-59 Hollywood Road, 2581 9678, www.sundaramtagore.com