NORTON MUSEUM OF ART

Lunar New Year Animal Exploration

Use this guide to learn about Lunar New Year 2023: The Year of the Rabbit and to locate works of art in the galleries.

The Lunar New Year occurs each year between January 21 and February 19. In 2023, the first day of lunar New Year is celebrated on January 22 with festivities continuing in China until the Lantern Festival which celebrates the first full moon of the New Year on February 5. Unless noted, the animals in this list are on view in the Chinese galleries.

The Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Ram, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Boar, Rat and Ox form a 12-year cycle. According to a Chinese legend, the twelve animals quarreled as to who was to head the cycle of years. It was decided that a contest would be held to decide the sequence of years. The first animal to reach the other side of the riverbank would have the first year of the lunar calendar named after them, and the rest of the animals would receive their years according to their finish. All the twelve animals gathered at the river bank and jumped in. Unknown to the ox, the rat had jumped upon his back. As the ox was about to step ashore, the rat sprung off the ox's back, and won the race. The lazy pig was last. Therefore, the rat is the first year of the animal cycle, the ox second, and the pig/boar last.

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What's Your Year?



Rabbit (1927 -1939 -1951 -1963 -1975 -1987 -1999 -2011-2023)

It is said that those born in the year of the Rabbit are the luckiest of them all. This is because Rabbits are gentle, talented, friendly, and always gracious. These qualities make them popular. Sometimes, a Rabbit can be very shy and sentimental, but if they can overcome that, they can succeed in almost everything. Some Famous Rabbits: Bach, Albert Einstein, Tina Turner, Qianlong Emperor, Queen Victoria, Michael Jordan, Whitney Houston, and Lionel Messi.

ON VIEW FIRST FLOOR



Dragon (1928 - 1940 - 1952 - 1964 - 1976 - 1988 - 2000 - 2012 - 2024)

Full of vitality and enthusiasm, the Dragon is a popular individual in spite of the reputation of being foolhardy and a "big mouth" at times. You are intelligent, gifted, and a perfectionist. These qualities make you unduly demanding on others. Conversely, Dragons tend to be soft-hearted which sometimes gives others an advantage over them. You would be well suited to be an artist, priest, or politician. Some Famous Dragons: Joan of Arc, Pearl S. Buck, Sigmund Freud, Warhol, John Lennon, Rubens, and Martin Luther King.

ON VIEW FIRST FLOOR



Snake (1929 - 1941 - 1953 - 1965 - 1977 - 1989 - 2001 - 2013 - 2025)

Rich in wisdom and charm, Snakes are romantic and deep thinking, plus strongly guided by intuition. Snakes should avoid procrastination, stinginess, and maintain a sense of humor. Snakes are most content as a teachers, philosophers, and writers. Some Famous Snakes: Edgar Allen Poe, Brahms, Darwin, Gandhi, Lincoln, Picasso, Muhammad Ali, Indira Gandhi, Shakira, Bob Dylan, and Volodymyr Zelensky.

NOT ON VIEW



Horse (1930 - 1942 - 1954 - 1966 - 1978 - 1990 - 2002 - 2014 - 2026)

The horse's capacity for hard work is amazing. Horses are very independent, intelligent, and friendly, but should guard against being egotistical. Horses are successful as adventurers, scientists, poets, or politicians. Some Famous Horses: Chopin, Rembrandt, Teddy Roosevelt, Jimi Hendrix, Edward Hopper, Aretha Franklin, and Jackie Chan and Joe Biden.

ON VIEW SECOND FLOOR



Ram (1931 - 1943 - 1955 - 1967 - 1979 - 1991 - 2003 - 2015 - 2027)

Except for the knack of always getting off on the wrong foot with people, being the first to complain, pessimistic, and dependent on material comforts, Rams can be charming, elegant, and creative. Rams are best suited to artistic, musical, medical, editorial, and educational endeavors. Some Famous Rams: Michelangelo, Frida Kahlo, Mick Jagger, Charles Demuth, George Harrison, Desmond Tutu, and Selena Gomez.

ON VIEW FIRST FLOOR



ON VIEW

THIRD FLOOR

Monkey (1932 - 1944 - 1956 - 1968 - 1980 - 1992 - 2004 - 2016 - 2028)

Monkeys very intelligent and clever with magnetic personalities. Monkeys must guard against being opportunistic and distrustful. Monkeys can be successful in any field that captures their interest. Some Famous Monkeys: Julius Caesar, Alicia Keys, Diana Ross, Modigliani, da Vinci, Gauguin, George Lucas, Little Richard, and Alice Walker.



Rooster (1933 - 1945 - 1957 - 1969 - 1981 - 1993 - 2005 - 2017 - 2029) Roosters are flashy, extravagant, hardworking, shrewd, decisive, and opinionated dreamers. Professions suited to Roosters include political, diplomatic, literary, and artistic. Some Famous Roosters: Jennifer Lopez, Buddha, Ptolemy, Benjamin Franklin, St. Patrick, Strauss, Amelia Earhart, R. Kipling, Groucho Marx, Matthew Perry, S. Dali, Bob Marley, Yoko Ono, and Eric Clapton.

ON VIEW THIRD FLOOR

Dog (1922 - 1934 - 1946 - 1958 - 1970 - 1982 - 1994 - 2006 - 2018 - 2030)



ON VIEW THIRD FLOOR



Boars are splendid intellectual, sincere, tolerant, and honest companions, with a an in-born need to set difficult goals and carry them out. In expecting others to reciprocate, Boars are incredibly naïve, and their quest for material goods could be their downfall. The Boar is happiest in artistic or diplomatic endeavors. Some Famous Boars: Ernest Hemingway, Diego Rivera, Elton John, Henry VIII, Mahalia Jackson, Juan Gris, Georgia O'Keeffe, Rufino Tamayo, the Dalai Lama, and Elon Musk.

ON VIEW SECOND FLOOR



Rat (1924 - 1936 - 1948 - 1960 - 1972 - 1984 - 1996 - 2008 - 2020 - 2032) Rats are imaginative, charming, and truly generous to loved-ones, yet tend to be quick-tempered, critical, and opportunistic. Those born under the sign of the Rat, should be happy as a writers, artists, and politicians. Some Famous Rats: Marie Antoinette, Mozart, Shakespeare, George Washington, Monet, Yves St Laurent, King Charles III, Cristiano Ronaldo, Mark Zuckerberg, Dwayne Johnson, and LeBron James.

NOT ON VIEW

Ox/Water Buffalo (1937-1949 - 1961 - 1973 - 1985 - 1997 - 2009 - 2021) People born in the Year of the Ox are confident, conservative, methodical, dexterous leaders, who must guard against being chauvinistic and demanding. Political and educational professions are suited to Ox people. Some Famous Oxen: Napoleon Bonaparte, Walt Disney, Rosa Parks, Van Gogh, Barack Obama, Louis Armstrong, Joseph Haydn, and George Frideric Handel

ON VIEW SECOND FLOOR



Tiger (1926-1938 - 1950 - 1962 - 1974 - 1986 - 1998 - 2010 - 2022) You are sensitive, emotional, and capable of great love. However, your tendency to get carried away and be stubborn about what you think is right, and therefore often seen as hotheaded or rebellious. You would be excellent as a leader, explorer, or competitor. Some Famous Tigers: Pissarro, Emily Dickinson, Muhammad, Marilyn Monroe, Marco Polo, Beatrix Potter, Tina Turner, Stevie Wonder, Beethoven, Lady Gaga, Joaquin Phoenix, Queen Elizabeth II, and Narendra Modi.

ON VIEW SECOND FLOOR

Dogs are loyal, honest, and faithful, but plagued by worry, a sharp tongue, and a tendency to be a fault finder. Dogs make excellent businessman, activists, and teachers. Some Famous Dogs: Socrates, Winston Churchill, George Gershwin, Jane Goodall, Mother Teresa, Golda Meir,

Pig/Boar (1923 - 1935 - 1947 - 1959 - 1971 - 1983 - 1995 - 2007 - 2019 - 2031)