

Rare Ancestral Portraits On Show At ROM

'Gods In My Home' Features Traditional Paintings - Part Of Chinese Lunar New Year Celebrations

TORONTO, The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) is presenting the ROM-original exhibition 'Gods in my Home: Chinese New Year with Ancestor Portraits and Deity Prints'.

Drawn from the Museum's permanent collection, the exhibition features a selection of ancestral portrait paintings and popular prints that traditionally were part of Lunar New Year observances and celebrations in Chinese households.

Opening on January 26, 2019 to coincide with the widely-celebrated holiday, Gods in My Home explores the connections between the domestic, material and spiritual life of Chinese society.

Many of the unique pieces in this exhibition came to the Museum early in the 20th century and have never been on public display until now," says Josh Basseches, ROM Director & CEO.

"Gods in My Home invites visitors to experience the customs and spiritual beliefs of traditional Chinese culture through the compelling visual power of this extraordinary collection of art."

'Gods in My Home' comprises over 100 objects spanning the late Imperial period to the early 20th century Republic era. With a focus on ancestral paintings and



popular prints of deities, the exhibition explores the connection between these two seemingly separate genres. Chinese families believed that the presence of these images both blessed and protected the family lines.

"The ROM is known for its ability to showcase important works throughout history that attract visitors and build on the reputation of our province's tourism and culture sectors," said Michael Tibollo, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

"The Lunar New Year brings excitement and new opportunity. I encourage everyone to discov-

er Gods in My Home and all the unique objects, displays and exhibitions it has to offer."

In traditional Chinese culture, celebrating the New Year was not only a time to worship gods and divinities, it was also a time to commemorate family lineage.

The exhibition includes nine large ancestor portraits, commissioned by prosperous families, as well as printed ancestral scrolls that were more affordable.

The popular print pieces, created on ordinary paper and pasted on walls and doors, served as religious talismans to ward off evil spirits and bless the family home.

Many of these prints were considered common objects when first collected by the ROM in the early 1900s, and are now considered important cultural objects that illuminate the domestic beliefs and family values inherent in Chinese life.

"Worshipping ancestors and gods at home is not unique to Chinese culture. Even today, people maintain certain visual forms for commemorating their ancestors and communicating with spiritual beings in private spaces," says Dr. Wen-chien Cheng, ROM co-curator of the exhibit. "In addition to appreciating and understand-

ing the cultural specifics and artistic qualities of these images, we hope that ROM visitors can relate to the ideas behind them in their own lives."

The exhibition is accompanied by a full-colour illustrated catalogue published by the ROM. The publication is generously supported by the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust. For more information, visit www.rom.on.ca/

Gods in my Home' is on display on Level 4, Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles and Costumes, and included with Museum admission.



Your Number Defines You

Sanjay B Jumaani is a renowned numerologist based in Mumbai, India. His advice has helped leading film stars, cricketers, corporate executives, industrialists, politicians, corporations, TV serials et al change their fortunes. To know more about Sanjay and his numerology forecasts, write to sbjumaani333@yahoo.com or visit www.jumaani.com.

Predictions for the week {13th January to 19th January 2019}

Number 1 {SUN}: {Those born on the 1st, 10th, 19th and 28th in any month}

The week ahead might seem a bit slow and less hectic compared to the week gone by. However, there are opportunities of improvement in the professional world, which might help you in planning your finances better. Times ahead indicate more togetherness and enjoyment with the family. You might experience a sluggishness which might get resolved by the time you realize it.

Lucky Days: Wednesday and Saturday.

Number 2 {MOON} {Those born on the 2nd, 11th, 20th and 29th in any month}

Try to employ your analytical skills at the workplace to turn things around in your favor. Remember that it is important that one speaks up for oneself and avoids any misunderstandings related to communication between the peer group. Let go off minor details if they are not necessary and try to concentrate on the larger

picture. Loved ones will offer their support and encourage you.

Lucky Days: Wednesday and Saturday.

Number 3 {JUPITER} {Those born on the 3rd, 12th, 21st and 30th in any month}

You probably are in the mood to undertake some form of religious activity this week due to the sudden and unexpected changes in your life. The setbacks of the week gone by have probably made you turn to the almighty for assistance. Keep your faith and the results might be in your favor, lending you peace of mind and serenity. Avoid falling into baseless arguments with your seniors at the work place.

Lucky Days: Tuesday and Friday.

Number 4 {URANUS} {Those born on the 4th, 13th, 22nd and 31st in any month}

It is believed that the trees that do not bend in the wind get uprooted whereas bushes get saved due to their flexibility. This is probably the approach you need to employ this week. Try to be less rigid about trivial things and

concentrate more on the outcomes then the technicalities. People in a relationship might need to be compassionate towards their partner listen up to their difficulties.

Lucky Days: Wednesday and Saturday.

Number 5 {MERCURY} {those born on the 5th, 14th and 23rd in any month}

There might be certain delays and obstacles in accomplishing the targets that you might have set up for yourself. However, be patient and all that you have envisioned for yourself might turn out to be a reality.

Pay careful attention to the advice of people in your family as this might help you to resolve some issues effectively. The financial situation might get better towards the end of the week.

Lucky Days: Monday and Tuesday.

Number 6 {VENUS} {those born on the 6th, 15th and 24th in any month}

One should always be a little practical as far as money matters are concerned and not be an emotional target such that people can

take advantage of the situation. Try to be diplomatic in your approach towards people in the professional domain and do not allow them the liberty to take you for a ride. The almighty is blessing you and is always besides honest people.

Lucky Days: Tuesday and Friday.

Number 7 {NEPTUNE} {those born on the 7th, 16th and 25th in any month}

You probably are capable of a lot then you are currently accomplishing for yourself. Try to stretch your limits a little bit and the results might be better and more fruitful than you expect them to be.

The end of the week might bring in some good news that might get instrumental to you in reaching your goals and planning for the future ahead. People in a relationship might face some disturbances with their beloved if ego is let to wander.

Lucky Days: Wednesday and Saturday.

Number 8 {SATURN} {those born on the 8th, 17th and 26th in any month}

The week might bring in unexpected surprises and gains for you as far as matters related to money are concerned.

Remember the good and bad co-exist with each other and there might be instances where you might face unexpected disappointments as well. Be tolerant and keep your spirits high.

The mundane pace of life might tire you out and also gear you up to take some actions and improve the situation.

Lucky Days: Monday and Tuesday.

Number 9 {MARS} {those born on the 9th, 18th and 27th in any month}

The week brings with it inspiration and creativity to your doorsteps. It might be beneficial to attend to things needing immediate attention and sort out matters. People in love might experience a good time with their partners which might aid in taking the relationship to the next level. Avoid being vulnerable in professional matters and take things under your control.

Lucky Days: Tuesday and Friday.

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