Celebrating Lunar New Year: YEAR OF THE TIGER

In January 2010, the U.S. Postal Service continued its celebration of the Lunar New Year series of stamps. Kam Mak, Illustration, has been commissioned to submit a series of 12 stamps—one for each month. The Year of the Tiger (February 14, 2010—February 2, 2011) is the third in the series that will continue through 2019. Kam chose to focus on the many different elements of the Chinese culture that he grew-up with. Instead of drawing the various animals of the zodiac, he represented this New Year with the narcissus flower. The flower, considered auspicious at any time of the year, is especially appropriate at this time of renewed hope for the future. Kam said, “As a young boy, my grandmother told me if the narcissus flower blossomed exactly on the day of the New Year, we would have luck and good fortune for the ensuing twelve months. The sweetest fragrances of the narcissus flower will always trigger all the wonderful memories I have for the lunar New Year holiday.” The narcissus flower represents good luck and fortune, while the tiger is a sign of courage.

Preceding the lunar stamp series, the USPS released a pair of post card stamps featuring Kam’s illustration of the koi fish.