

ANNEX A: DAHLIA DREAMS – THE HEAVENLY RACE

Get caught up in the tale of the heavenly race and feast your eyes on Dahlia Dreams – The Heavenly Race, the first-ever collaboration with Beijing Florascape Co., Ltd. in Southeast Asia.

Gracing the Flower Field with their famed Mosaiculture, the horticultural art of creating giant topiary-like sculptures with the use of bedding plants to carpet metal frames, the display also features an abundance of more than 70 Dahlia cultivars, and other festive plants commonly associated with the season such as Narcissus, Azalea and Celosia.

Usher in good luck this Chinese New Year with a spectacular *Fu* medallion at the entrance of Flower Dome. Then stroll past a landscape akin to a Chinese painting, dotted with peach blossoms, red-crowned cranes and a pavilion. Finally, make a grand entrance through the magnificent archway placed front and centre, and catch up with the rat, the first to reach the Jade Emperor by outwitting the other 11 zodiac animals. Proudly flanking the centre field, two golden rats wish you a happy and prosperous new year!

Date: Friday, 17 January – Sunday, 23 February 2020

Time: 9am – 9pm

Location: Gardens by the Bay

Details: Admission charge to Flower Dome applies.

About Beijing Florascape Co., Ltd. (北京市花木有限公司)

Founded in 1956, Beijing Florascape Co., Ltd. is one of the earliest companies in floriculture and landscaping business in China. Since 1986, Beijing Florascape has been the only authorised designer and contractor of the annual National Day floral displays at Tiananmen Square. One of the leading horticultural companies in the Chinese market, they represent Beijing in many international flower exhibitions and competitions and have won a series of awards.

About Mosaiculture (立体花坛)

Mosaiculture is a form of horticultural art that uses bedding plants, carpeting and metal frames to create giant topiary-like sculptures. The term “mosaiculture” was first used in Europe at the end of the 19th century, and integrates art sculpture, architectural design, as well as gardening knowledge. Miniature shrubs or herbs with different colours and characteristics are planted onto steel frames, forming a three-dimensional flower bed known as a “living sculpture”. To ensure the plants continue to grow healthily, an automatic irrigation system is built beneath the surface of the sculptures.

Set Pieces of Dahlia Dreams – The Heavenly Race

The World’s Best Blessing (天下第一福)



Height: 5m

It is a long-standing tradition to display the Chinese character *Fu* (福, meaning blessing) during the Lunar New Year. In this specially constructed set piece made with mosaiculture, the word *Fu* is fashioned after Emperor Kangxi’s handwriting.

This character contains the glyphs of several Chinese characters including *Zi* (子, meaning descendants), *Cai* (才, meaning talent), *Tian* (田, meaning land), *Fu* (福, meaning blessing) and *Shou* (寿, meaning longevity). Collectively, this character means endless profundity and infinite blessings.

Auspicious Omens (牌楼“紫气东来”)



Height & Length: 7m

The majestic “Auspicious Omens” set piece was specially constructed for the Dahlia Dreams floral display, and part of the structure is made with mosaiculture. It is inspired by the historical “Eastern Single Archway” (东单牌楼), which was built in the Ming Dynasty during the reign of Emperor Yonge and still stands today at Beijing’s Imperial Gardens.

The archway is flanked by “Golden Boy and Jade Girl” (金童玉女), which are symbols of fortune and happiness for the whole family.

“Auspicious Omens” is the loose English translation of the Mandarin phrase 紫气东来, which means purple haze from the east. Legend has it that before the famous philosopher and founder of Taoism *Laozi* passed the border station at Hangu Pass, the guard saw purple *Qi* (气, which means life force) coming from the east, and knew that a wise man was about to come through. To the Chinese, 紫气东来 means prosperity and good luck in one’s career.

Golden Rat Celebrates Lunar New Year (金鼠“恭贺新春”) & Golden Rat Ushers in Wealth and Prosperity (金鼠“招财进宝”)



Height: 3m

This year’s zodiac animal is showcased as a pair of lucky Golden Rats made with mosaiculture.

In ancient times, people believed that rats stealing grains from a barn meant there was extra food and the family was rich. Therefore, having rats in the household was regarded as a symbol of wealth.

The Chinese Zodiac (十二生肖) & Peach Blossom Spring (桃花源记)



The 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac (生肖) – the Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig – are considered symbols of luck during the Lunar New Year.

The animals are peppered across the flower field, surrounding a pavilion inspired by “Where the Moon Meets the Wind” (月到风来亭), said to be the most exquisite pavilion in the famous garden landscapes of Northern Suzhou.

The inspiration for this part of the flower field comes from “Peach Blossom Spring” (桃花源记), a famous fable written by Tao Yuanming that tells of a secret utopia hidden away from civilisation.

Festive Flowers at Dahlia Dreams – The Heavenly Race



Dahlias (大丽花)

With the exception of blue, dahlia flowers come in a wide variety of colours. Some dahlia flowers are variegated and bi-coloured too. They range in size from micro ones measuring 5cm across, to “dinner plate” ones measuring 25cm across!

More than 70 dahlia cultivars will be featured in Dahlia Dreams for the duration of the floral display.



Azaleas (杜鹃花)

Rhododendron is a large and extremely diverse genus, comprising approximately 850 species, and the azalea is one of the varieties. It is native chiefly in the north temperate zone, particularly in the Himalayas and Southeast Asia.

Azaleas have tubular or funnel-shaped flowers that come in a wide range of colours like pink, purple, white and yellow.

	<p>Celosias (凤尾球)</p> <p>With their vibrant colours, different varieties of <i>Celosia</i> are popular Chinese New Year plants.</p> <p>Types of <i>Celosia</i> featured in Dahlia Dreams include Feather Celosia (<i>Celosia plumosa</i>) with narrow, feathery, flame-like heads consisting of tiny, densely-packed flowers, and Wheat Celosia (<i>Celosia spicata</i>) with distinctive, erect flower spikes reminiscent of a sheaf of wheat.</p>
	<p>Narcissus (水仙花)</p> <p>The genus <i>Narcissus</i>, commonly called Daffodil, consists of over 50 species of bulbous plants in the Amaryllis family. Native primarily to Europe, the central crown of each flower ranges in shape from that of a trumpet to a ring-like cup.</p> <p>The word “narcissus” comes from the Greek word <i>narke</i>, meaning “numbness”, in reference to the intoxicating fragrance of some species, or the poisonous nature of the bulbs and flowers.</p>
	<p>Peach Trees (桃树)</p> <p>The ornamental peach trees (<i>Prunus persica</i>) possess showy flowers that appear in mid spring before new leaves unfold. These blooms come in colours ranging from pure white to pink to deep red, and give off a pleasant fragrance.</p>
	<p><i>Salix caprea</i> (银柳)</p> <p>Commonly called Pussy Willow or Goat Willow, <i>Salix caprea</i> is a large shrub or small tree native to Europe and Asia. A dioecious species with male and female catkins (cylindrical flower clusters with inconspicuous or no petals) appearing on separate trees, the male trees produce showy pinkish-grey woolly catkins, while the female ones produce smaller greenish catkins.</p>