

Hello! We're well into Fall now. The dragons have been busy at several Welcome the Salmon Home celebrations - sharing the stage with the salmon and the Orcas who follow them. Soon they head to Minnesota to once again try and find their ice dragon cousins in Lake Superior. And also visit schools! And don't forget to check out [dragon gifts for the holidays](#).

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Northwest Beaches: Welcome the Salmon Home!

The salmon have been returning to their spawning grounds in our Northwest rivers and streams for several months now. I just discovered a great website for finding where and when you can go and see them! It's the [Salmon Seeson!](#) And right now in November and December you can see lots of chum and coho salmon returning home to spawn in Piper's Creek at Carkeek Park in Seattle. Docents are on hand most weekends and there will be [Welcome the Salmon Home to Piper's Creek](#) on Friday, Nov 26, 11-1pm. It's a magical thing to realize that these fish began life here in this creek (or any of our NW creeks), traveled out to sea for 2-4 years, and now find their way back to the very stream where they hatched in order to spawn and create the next generation. If you visit Carkeek Park, check out the giant salmon slide to play on!



Yvonne Palka

Yvonne is the award-winning sumi-e artist who wrote and illustrated *Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist*. A retired college professor, grandmother, biologist and naturalist, she is passionate about introducing children and adults to the wonders of the natural world.

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"Yvonne Palka's presentation was inspiring. She grabbed the

children's attention by sharing her personal experiences of Shi Shi Beach and how she used her imagination to write her books. The pictures and paintings were awesome. Kids are so excited about reading her book. Hopefully she will write another!"

Julie Gurrad, 3rd grade teacher, Juanita Elementary School, Kirkland, WA

Dragons: Koi Turn into Water Dragons!.

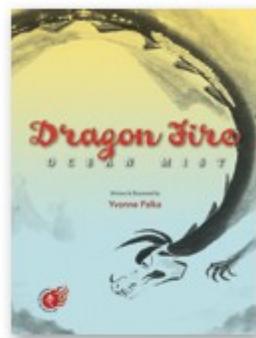
Koi, the beautiful multicolored fish that we love to look at in ponds, are actually a kind of carp. In Japan the carp symbolize strength of purpose, courage and perseverance in the face of adversity, and the ability to attain high goals. Not unlike our Northwest salmon, the wild koi swim upstream for miles. When the strongest one reaches the final waterfall it vaults into the mists and becomes a water dragon!

In China, the waterfall of this transformation is called the Dragon's Gate and is located on the Yellow River - it's a real place! The koi must swim against torrents of water and clear the waterfall in a huge leap.

There is a saying in China, "The carp has leaped through the Dragon's Gate", which means success is at hand, especially for students who have passed their exams. I have a feeling it might also refer to the strength and courage to pursue dreams of goals of all kinds!

Asian Art: Super Simple Sumi Cat.

This month's Super Simple Sumi animal is a cat. Start the cat by painting two eyes with a fine brush and black ink (or a permanent marker). Then take some grey ink and paint the round or oval head around the eyes, leaving the eyes white. Make a short neck, then two brush strokes for the front legs. An arch for the back (make it high for a Halloween cat!) and two back legs. Then add the tail with a flourish. Add the nose, whiskers and ears and you can hear the meow!



Dragon Fire Ocean Mist

Written & Illustrated by Yvonne Palka

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Salmon spawning in our rivers.



Super Simple Sumi Cat!



Shyla - the Pretty One. Check out this and other dragons prints at our [gallery!](#)

Also other [dragon merchandise for the holidays!](#)



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