



Chinese Koi fish (carp) painting has a long history in China. It is one of the most popular auspicious thing. The ancient Chinese deem koi fish as one of the symbol of wealth, respect, lucky and power.

The words for fish and abundance are pronounced the same in Chinese (yu) so the fish in the Chinese culture symbolizes wealth. Fish also symbolize harmony, marital happiness and reproduction because they multiply rapidly and sometimes swim in pairs. Chinese legend says people placed messages in the bellies of the fish, and thus the fish has come to symbolize communication with a distant friend or loved one. The most popular fish motif found in Chinese art and culture is that of the Carp or Koi fish. The Chinese carp has numerous symbolic values within Chinese culture. The carp is a powerful symbol of strength and perseverance. The scales and whiskers of the carp resemble that of a dragon, a great symbol of power in China. At the New Year Festival "lucky money" is given out in red envelopes usually decorated with the koi fish to welcome wealth coming year after year.