

南北燈會・點亮 2011

— Illuminating 2011 with Lantern Festivals

做為春節的結尾與一年揭幕宣告的元宵節，是臺灣重要的傳統節日。人們張燈結綵、穿紅戴紫，無不希望新的一年舊慮盡除，百事皆吉。儘管時至今日，人們祛災納吉的觀念已淡，但也許是張燈結綵的習俗和華燈處處的城市頗為契合，每年的元宵時節，臺灣南北各地都競相亮燈：紙作的、水中的、LED燈管的、傳統的、科技的、環保的，投射著島上人們對過去的依戀、對未來的想望。

2011年的元宵節燈會比起往年又更為盛大，除了最大型的「2011臺灣燈會在苗栗」，以及各地方照例舉行的燈會展示與競賽活動，「2011臺北燈節公共藝術展」則為元宵燈會提出了另一種與現代生活締合的方式。一方傳統，一方現代，交會點亮了臺灣的2011年。

As the signal of the end of the previous year and the beginning of the new year, Lantern Festival has been one of the most important cultural events in Taiwan. During the days before and after January 15 on the lunar calendar, lanterns are hung everywhere to introduce luck and fortune to the neighborhoods for the whole year. Although today people no longer believe in the effect of the lanterns, the habit persists. They hang lanterns made of paper or LED tubes, place them in the water, engage them with traditional, technological, or environmental concerns, contributing to a picture outlining the nostalgia and expectations of the islanders.

This issue of *Taiwan Crafts* takes two of the seminal lantern activities — 2011 Taipei Lantern Festival Public Art Exhibition and 2011 Taiwan Lantern Festival (in Miaoli) — as its focus, following their lights to see the traditional and modern sides of Taiwan, at the threshold of 2011.

