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Celestial Messenger

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Abstract

This dragon sculpture is embedded with binary code in the form of 1s and 0s, they are generated by light transmission through the holes.

Keywords

binary code, dragon, digital era

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This dragon sculpture was inspired by punch tape, which was used to input data into early computers (1950s-1960s). The holes (1s) and non-holes (0s) on punch tape are binary code storing data and information. Incorporation of digital information into a sculpture through a computer component visually combines art and science, it represents a contemporary art in digital era.

Dragons are mystical creatures and often revered as representative of supernatural power in the universe. Metaphorically, this dragon is sculpted as a celestial messenger between human being and extraterrestrial life. It carries an encrypted message and highlights dragon's myth and intelligence.

The encrypted message can be decoded using American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII). Each cross line of the binary code, or the holes (1s) and nonholes (0s) on tape, corresponds to a text character, and vice versa. Their correspondence according to ASCII is exemplified below:

Binary	Text
1000001	A
1000010	B
1000011	C

With ASCII, the code-text conversion is as simple as ABC. This artwork intends to evoke public curiosity about extraterrestrial life and motivate us to learn digital technology. It is also to inject steam into our exploration of the universe, which requires Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM). Moreover, it is to inspire imagination

Celestial Messenger Polyvinyl Chloride. 32(L) X 14(H) X 6(D)

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