

BELLA YONGOK KIM

Recycled, Fiber, Mixed Media Artist



Gig Harbor, WA, 98335
253.226.5855
Bellaartstudio@gmail.com

Bellakim.com
KAAW.net
nwdesignercraftartists.org
Refashionbainbridge.org



Growing up, I observed the women in my family sewing and mending, sparking my interest in machine sewing. Back then, with limited supplies, I learned to use recyclable materials early. Worn socks turned into skirts for my Barbie dolls- a humble beginning in recycled artwork. Now, 50 years later, with the pressing need to combat global warming, I strive to reduce energy and resource consumption through my art. In my surroundings, I come across discarded leftovers and packaging that are destined for trash. However, I see their colors and textures as unique, special, and beautiful. I make it a habit to collect these plastics daily and prepare them by cutting, washing, and drying. Sorting them by color and texture, I sew and patch these pieces together, creating harmonious compositions that reveal patterns, textures, and unexpected effects. Drawing inspiration from the Korean traditional practice of Jogakbo, which emphasized resourcefulness and the reuse of leftover fabrics, I adapted this concept to my craft as a designer artist. As a Korean American, my artistic version is rooted in traditional Korean culture while incorporating elements, and I hope to inspire others to recognize the artistic potential of recycling and to reconsider their consumption habits.

Studied art in Seoul, Korea, earning BFA, and MFA from Ewha University, one of the major fiber art School in Korea. Exhibited actively as a member of the Fiber Artists and Korean Crafts Council and taught art in college. Since setting in Gig Harbor. I joined the Korean American Artist Association of Washington (KAAW). I explored exhibition opportunities, participating in the RAGS wearable art show to support domestic violence victims and co-op gallery. Over time, I expanded my presence in juried exhibitions at Kirkland Art Center, Schack Art Center, Columbia City Gallery, Bainbridge Arts & Crafts (BAC), Tacoma Community College, and Art on Main.

ABOUT MY ART

Every day, I see a lot of plastic package materials that are destined to get trashed. However, to my eyes, they look beautiful and unique in colors and textures, so I reuse them with other leftover fabrics and stuff that I have kept in my storage to transform into many meaningful artworks.

Lemmon,lime,avocado plastic mesh bag



Aluminum Foil snack bag



Plastic Onion bag



Bubble bag



Plastic Produce bag



Orange bag



Return of Jogakbo 1

'Jogakbo' is a Korean traditional wrapping sheet, which is made of many small pieces of left-over cloth, in different colors and textures. I tried to make it with modern trash materials such as plastic mesh bags and dryer sheets. People's Choice award at Bainbridge Arts & Crafts.



Doodle stitch

Doodle sewing brought me unexpected pleasure and a new vision. Its multi-layer formation provides stability and is reversible. This can be installed with flexibility, in space and length.

Selected Exhibitions

2023 June 3- June 4, 'Arts Explosion', Performing Arts and Event Center, Federal Way, WA
2023 April 3- June 9, Solo Exhibition, TCC Gig Harbor Campus, Gig Harbor, WA
2023 Collectors cabinet, The Gallery, Tacoma Community College, WA
2022 *Felt and Fiber*, University House Wallingford, Era Living, Seattle, WA
2022 *Art on Main*, Auburn, WA
2022 *Fantasy Footwear*, Clarke & Clarke Art + Artifact, Mercer Island, WA
2022 *20th Annual Juried Local Art Exhibition*, TCC, Tacoma, WA
2022 *KAAW Member's Show*, University House Wallingford, Era Living, Seattle, WA
2022 *Itty Bitty Show*, Gallery Row, Gig Harbor, WA
2022 REFASHION, Bainbridge Arts & Crafts, Bainbridge Island, WA
2022 *Experimental Exploration*, Columbia city gallery, Seattle, WA
2022 *Pacific Northwest Landscape*, The Gallery @ TCC Exhibition, Tacoma, WA
2021 *Fresh Talent*, Bainbridge Arts & Crafts, Bainbridge Island, WA
2021 *Interdependence*, Kirkland Art Center, Kirkland, WA

Group Exhibitions

2009-2022 *KAAW Member's Exhibition*, The Gallery, Washington State Convention Center, Tacoma Art Museum, Mercer view Gallery, Handforth Gallery, Lakewood Library, WA
2011-2012 16th, 17th 'RAGS' *Juried Wearable Art Show*, Tacoma, WA
2010-2012 *Gallery 3 Member Exhibition*, Puyallup, WA
2010 *Featured Artist*, BKB & Company, Tacoma, WA
2007 *Artist Review Today showcase* at Galleria, Cleveland, OH
1995 *Exhibition Celebrating The 50th Anniversary of Art and Design Ewha Womans University*, Seoul, Korea
1992, 1996 *Seoul Fiber Art Festival*, Seoul Metropolitan Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
1990 *The 30th Ewha Alumni of Fine Arts Exhibition*, Museum of Ewha Womans University, Seoul,

Awards

2022 Honorable mention, *20th Annual Juried Local Art Exhibition*, The Gallery, TCC, Tacoma, WA
2021 People's Choice & Honorable mention, *Fresh Talent*, Bainbridge Arts & Crafts, Bainbridge Island, WA
2021 Honorable mention, *22nd Juried Show*, Schack Art Center, Everett, WA
2011 17th 'RAGS' *Juried Wearable Art Show*- Gallery division, Tacoma, WA
2010 2nd Award 'Korean Art Show': Pierce College, Lakewood, WA
1990 National Special Art Award: The Korean Craft and Art Competition, Seoul, Korea

Experience

2011, 2021-2022 President of KAAW (Korean American Artist Association of WA)
2002-2005 Painter, McHugh's Restorations, Richmond, VA
1994-1998 Instructor, Myungji Junior College, Seoul, Korea
1995 Instructor, Daejeon University, Daejeon, Korea
1994 Instructor, Kunsan University, Kunsan, Korea

Education

1986-1988 M.F.A. Fiber Art, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea
1982-1986 B.F.A. Design & Fabric dyeing, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea