

**THEME: Pojagi and Belonging**

*Pojagi Mounds* is inspired by pojagi, the historic Korean patchwork artform using scrap fabric to create cloths that were integral to a person's daily life. They were used as tablecloths, to deliver gifts, to carry possessions on a journey, and protect valuables. Wrapping a gift in a pojagi communicated respect for the object and good will toward the recipient. Each patch added by the maker was like a prayer of good will that would enfold and carry the gift. For me pojagi represents how diverse members of a community can come together to enfold and carry one another.

*Pojagi Mounds* underscores how the whole is more than the sum of its parts. A mountain is more than simply soil, plants and rocks just as we people in a society are greater when unified. My goal for this public artwork is to create a visual representation of this concept that spur viewers to ponder the beautiful and complex way that different parts can come together to unify and elevate us beyond the self.

Obangsaek means "Five Orientations" - East (blue), West (white), South (red), North (black) and Center (yellow). I used this traditional eastern color scheme to promote balance & harmony while warding off evil spirits. In my work I use bears both in reference to the Korean creation myth and for the conjuring of strength, courage and belonging.

I created two sets of designs for the two sets of utility boxes at NE Spring Blvd. at 120<sup>th</sup> and 121<sup>st</sup> Ave NE. Both images "*Better Together*" and "*We Belong*" are meant to reinforce a spirit of unity and inclusivity. Messages of the strength of a society coming together as one to counter hate are needed these days now more than ever.