

## Sooyeon Kim

### ARTIST STATEMENT

#### **Artwork: Fruitfulness**

Eastern Taoist philosophy and the principles of yin and yang is infused in my work.

My technique of hand-building with tiny pellets of clay springs from a basic principle that from many can come one. Just as countless small rocks form a mountain and the greatest masterwork, such as The Starry Night by Vincent Van Gogh consist of thousands of simple brushstrokes.

My work is built one piece of clay at a time. Each bit of clay holds the mundane, my fingerprints but also the sublime, and my mood. Each shows the progress of my work on its journey toward completion. I purposely shape each pellet to symbolize grains of rice, a staple in my native Korean culture. As a child, I often heard, "Don't waste a single grain of rice, for it is just like wasting a farmer's hard work and devotion." A single grain of rice can often be ignored, just as with the negative space around a positive shape. The yin of each pellet of clay draws forth the yang of the final, positive form. Both are necessary to complete the work in harmony.