

Empty Spools Seminars Workshop 2027- Youngmin Lee

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Youngmin Lee is a textile artist specializing in the traditional Korean art of bojagi. She studied Clothing and Textile and holds MFA in Fashion Design from South Korea. Since moving from South Korea to California in 1996, Youngmin has been dedicated to preserving and innovating within the bojagi tradition, which emphasizes recycling and upcycling by using fabric remnants.

In addition to her studio work, she created the educational DVD *Bojagi: The Art of Wrapping Cloths* in 2013 to reach a broader audience. Her new book, *Bojagi: The Art of Korean Textiles* was published in 2024.

Youngmin also founded the Korean Textile Tour in 2017, aiming to introduce Korean traditional textile art and culture to a wider audience. Through her work, she continues to inspire and educate, ensuring the bojagi tradition thrives.

Course Description: Bojagi, Stitching happiness

Bojagi, Korean wrapping cloths, were used not only to wrap or carry items but also to convey blessings. The act of making one is a heartfelt gesture, filled with wishes for the recipient's happiness.

Youngmin will introduce *jogakbo*—a patchwork style of bojagi—using distinctive techniques. Youngmin will share the secrets behind achieving the delicate transparency of jogakbo. Students will also explore the philosophy of fabric recycling and sustainability. Rooted in ancient tradition, bojagi offers endless possibilities for contemporary expression. Youngmin will guide students to create artwork through an intuitive and spontaneous design process, blending timeless craft with modern aesthetics.

Supply List

- Basic sewing tools such as a needle
- 2-3 colors of 40 or 50wt. cotton sewing thread, 50wt. silk thread
- Pins
- Cutting mat (12"x18" or bigger) and a rotary cutter (28mm)
- Grid ruler
- Fabric scissors
- Fabric marking pen or pencil of your choice
- Hera marker or Bone folder
- Iron and ironing mat
- Notebook for taking notes and sketch your design
- Fabrics- Students can bring plain weave, lightweight fabrics (cotton, linen, or silk organza) from their own stash or purchase fabric kit at the class
- Youngmin will prepare fabric **kit** that includes ramie, hemp, and various Korean silk gauze (\$30 USD) and bring extra fabrics for purchase
- Youngmin's book, [Bojagi, The Art of Korean Textiles](#), is recommended as a reference.
- Seam roller or Quilters clapper (optional)
- Sewing machine is optional but not required

High resolution digital images will be sent via WeTransfer or Dropbox.



















