

# HAPPY WORLD, SCATTERED CRUMBS

South Korean artist Ik-Joong Kang moved to New York City from Korea in 1984. While traveling on long subway rides, he carried small wooden blocks to create a record of these new experiences. Eventually Kang was able to make thousands of paintings and mixed-media works inspired by his collection. Individually, each square contains a memory or treasure of life, but together they show the blending of a collection of objects and images from both his Korean and American cultures.



Link: <https://www.dia.org/art/collection/object/happy-world-scattered-crumbs-105006>

One of the images or shapes that we see repeated in this work is the moon jar. Moon jars are a traditional Korean ceramic form that takes two wheel-thrown bowls and connects them by scoring and slipping the seams together and then cutting an opening at the top. The purity of the white porcelain along with the slight asymmetry of the sphere adds to the unique character of each work. As a national symbol of Korea, this form was used for the Olympic cauldron at the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea.

According to Kang, moon jars represent connections; they are pieces that shape us and travel through endless cycles. Think about the ceramics that you have made and the processes involved in taking the raw clay and transforming it into a form and then firing and painting or glazing the work in order to make it a finished piece. Think about how people can interact with the works that you have made--is the purpose of your artwork more functional or aesthetic? What messages or stories do you share in your artwork?



## For more information on our featured artist:

[http://www.ikjoongkang.com/c\\_ijk/ijk.htm](http://www.ikjoongkang.com/c_ijk/ijk.htm)

<http://www.kangcollection.com/artists/ik-joong-kang>

<https://www.alainekanninterviews.com/ik-joong-kang/>

<https://www.koreasociety.org/arts-culture/item/1341-moon-jar-longing-for-home-ik-joong-kang>

## ASSIGNMENT

**Supplies:**        **One 7" x 7" cardboard square**  
                         **Additional assorted cardboard squares**  
                         **Assorted construction and tissue papers**  
                         **Scissors, glue**

For this project, you have been given a cardboard square that you will use to record a day in your life. Like Kang's work, we will assemble all of these squares together for a collective art installation at school.

Besides the square, you have been provided with a few basic materials: tissue paper, construction paper, some additional cardboard squares, and glue. Please cover your square completely with either the construction paper or the tissue paper which will help to provide a visual sense of unity in the overall composition. Make sure to allow this to dry before proceeding to the next step. Then it is up to you to add to your piece . . . what objects, items, and symbols explain a day in your life? Make sure to use objects that will stick to your cardboard--nothing too heavy or too big or anything that will rot.

