Leaf Mobile Activity Tutorial
Solenopsis I (2008) is made of many fragile, porcelain parts suspended from the ceiling. Their surfaces contain lots of openings, like an abstract net. These organic shapes and the scientific title remind us of plants.

Kevin Turner
Solenopsis I
2008
porcelain
96 in. x 36 in. x 36 in.
Gift of the artist, made possible by the 2005 Jane Crater Hiatt Artist Fellowship 2009.010

Solenopsis, a scientific name referring to both a genus of ants and a genus of flowering plants, is a commentary on the intricate beauty of our environments that embody both fragility and strength.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IT LOOKS LIKE?
Create an art piece inspired by Kevin Turner’s, Solenopsis I!

**SUPPLIES**

SCISSORS
PAPER TOWEL TUBE
NAIL OR NEEDLE TO POKE HOLES
(4) 12-16" PIECES OF STRING
BEADS OR ALUMINUM FOIL TO KEEP STRINGS FROM SLIDING
LEAVES
PAPER
CRAYONS
STEP 1

Cut the paper towel tube in half – lengthwise. Poke 5 small holes in a line down the middle of the tube.

DIAGRAM >
For the hanger, run string between the two outer holes, adding stoppers underneath the tube.

A stopper can be a big knot, a bead, or aluminum foil wrapped tight. Stoppers keep the knot from slipping through the hole.

Run string through the other 3 holes adding stoppers on the topside. Leave their ends loose.
STEP 3

Find some leaves or ask someone to bring you a few!

Try to find 3-5 different kinds.

Eager for a challenge? Find one with a pointy margin, which is leaf speak for edge!
Gather leaves, crayons, and paper.

Put one sheet of paper over a leaf and rub the crayon over it.

**PRO TIP!** Use the side of the crayon for a more even leaf rubbing.

Make 6-10 rubbings.
NOTICE THE LINES ON YOUR LEAVES – THESE ARE CALLED VEINS.

IF YOU SEE SAME SIZE LINES THAT DON’T CONNECT, THEY’RE PARALLEL.

IF YOU SEE DIFFERENT SIZES THAT CONNECT LIKE A NET, THEY’RE RETICULATED.

PINNATE LEAVES HAVE 1 MAIN VEIN WITH SMALLER ONES BRANCHING OUT.

PALMATE LEAVES HAVE 2+ MAIN VEINS THAT START AT THE BOTTOM, EACH WITH SMALL ONES BRANCHING OUT.
EACH LEAF RUBBING & CUT THEM TO THE STRINGS.
SHARE YOUR LEAF MOBILE!
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#MMAEDUATHOME
#MUSEUMSCHOOLMMA
#MUSEUMFROMHOME