



Sandwich Shop

Tues- Sat
10:30 a.m.
to
6:30 p.m.

1001 D Ryland Pike

Spreading Their Message, One Leaf at a Time

by Jennifer Mullins

Everyone is going green. If you are looking for a way to express your interest in the environment, the International Fiber Collaborative has just the thing for you. Their latest project will combine 35,000 unique leaves together to make a tree that will be on display at Panoply in Big Spring Park this year and then permanently at the Earlyworks Museum in August. They have already received thousands of leaves from all over the world. There are participants from the United States, Argentina, Italy, Australia, and the United Kingdom among others. The leaves are made from various re-used materials and include items such as old clothes, two-liter bottles, and old wrappers.

When Jennifer Marsh arrived in Huntsville last July for a position as a sculpting professor at UAH, she wanted to start a local community art project. This is not the first International Fiber Collaborative project that allows people to come together for a common purpose. Their Gas Station Project involved the hot topic of the world's dependence on oil, an abandoned gas station and 3,400 handmade panels. The

gas station was covered in these panels and has drawn international attention.

"Interdependence is and ought to be as much the ideal of man as self-sufficiency. Man is a social being. Without interrelation with society he cannot realize his oneness with the universe or suppress his egotism. His social interdependence enables him to test his faith and to prove himself on the touchstone of reality." ~ Mahatma Gandhi, 1929

How to Participate

* Leaves should be created using fiber or fiber techniques.

* Entrants are encouraged

to be creative in deciding on materials and techniques, and may paint, stitch, crochet, patch, quilt, knit, or glue (water resistant glue).

* Each leaf should measure roughly 5 in. wide (at its thickest) x 7 in. long.

* Leaves may also have shape and dimension.

* Submissions may relate to interdependence in a social, economical, political, ecological, or geographical way.

Mailing address:

Attn: Jennifer Marsh

Department of Art & Art History, RH 313

UAHuntsville

301 Sparkman Dr.

Huntsville, Alabama 35899

In addition, there will be a tent at Panoply where local kids can create a leaf to be added to the tree.

If you would like to get involved in this project, please visit www.internationalfibercollaborative.com for more information and to download the required application.

