

## FAMILY ART ACTIVITY – Nature Mobiles

The Nasher Museum of Art collection includes a series of conceptual photographs by the contemporary Chinese artist Hong Lei. These photographs refer back to traditional Chinese painting and feature elements from nature suspended by visible strings – similar to a mobile.



**Hong Lei, (Right) *Speak, Memory of Butterflies* and (Left) *Speak, Memory of Pomegranate*, both 2005.** Chromogenic prints, 37 1/8 x 47 1/8 inches (94.3 x 119.7 cm). Collection of the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, USA. Museum Purchase, 2007.2.1.6. © Hong Lei

A **mobile** is a type of artwork created with elements that are able to move due to airflow around them. Artists like Alexander Calder are well known for their work creating mobiles. Many of us had a simple mobile hanging above our crib as babies or toddlers.

### Activity:

With an adult, head out into your yard or neighborhood with a bag, or small box, and collect interesting natural objects that might be a great addition to your mobile. Look for a variety of objects to make your mobile interesting. You will also need to find at least one stick from which to suspend the rest of your natural treasures.

Tie a piece of string to the middle of your stick – the rest of your objects will be suspended from this stick. Using string (or thread, or whatever you can find) tie the objects to the stick. You may need to move objects around in order to get your mobile to balance. Once you have your mobile complete you can hang it in your house, on your porch, or in a tree for others to enjoy!

### Examples:

