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Miya Ando, *Ascension Leaves*, 2015, dyed Bodhi (*Ficus Religiosa*) skeleton leaves, monofilament, quartz crystal, 168 x 90 inches

KINETIC SCULPTURE INSPIRED BY NATURE UNVEILED AT MONTEFIORE HEALTH SYSTEM

Designed To Convey Strength and Connectivity of the Human Condition

NEW YORK, NY (January 11, 2016) -- Patients and visitors walking into the main lobby of the Moses campus of the Montefiore Health System will be welcomed by a new, suspended kinetic sculpture created by artist Miya Ando. Commissioned by The Montefiore Fine Art Program and Collection, *Ascension Leaves* was created from thousands of leaves collected over the course of the past year. The generous philanthropy of Montefiore donors helped to support acquisition of this unique work of art.

“Art is an integral and essential part of the healing process and we want that healing process to begin as soon as our patients, along with their family and friends, walk through our doors,” said Steven M. Safyer, M.D., president and CEO, Montefiore Health System. “*Ascension Leaves* is the first major commission under our Fine Art Program

and Collection. We are excited to be able to bring this truly unique work of art to our community.”

The sculpture is based on the *Ficus Religiosa*, or Bodhi Tree, which represents transcendence, transformation and growth. Each leaf in the sculpture has been bleached and hand-dyed in a gradient of color, from light to dark and then arranged in concentric circles in a chandelier-like configuration and hung with nylon thread. *Ascension Leaves* is an ever-changing sculpture that responds to changes in light and even the slightest currents of air, allowing viewers to have a different viewing experience every time they see it.

“When I created this sculpture, I was inspired by the metaphor of leaves on a tree and the human condition,” said sculptor Miya Ando. “We are all unique individuals, fragile in our health and physicality, but strong and resilient and part of the larger community just like leaves on a tree.”

Ascension Leaves can be found suspended above a circular stairway in the atrium area of the main lobby through the entrance at 111 East 210th Street.

“I was delighted to have the opportunity to collaborate with Miya in the creation and installation of *Ascension Leaves*,” said Jodi Moise, curator of The Montefiore Fine Art Program and Collection. “This kinetic sculpture transforms and enhances the main entrance to our medical center by creating a welcoming environment for all to enjoy.”

About Montefiore Health System

Montefiore Health System is a premier academic health system and the University Hospital for Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Combining nationally-recognized clinical excellence with a population health perspective that focuses on the comprehensive needs of the communities it serves, Montefiore delivers coordinated, compassionate, science-driven care where, when and how patients need it most. Montefiore consists of seven hospitals and an extended care facility with a total of 2,455 beds, a School of Nursing, and state-of-the-art primary and specialty care provided through a network of more than 150 locations across the region, including the largest school health program in the nation and a home health program. The Children's Hospital at Montefiore is consistently named in U.S. News' "America's Best Children's Hospitals." Montefiore's partnership with Einstein advances clinical and translational research to accelerate the pace at which new discoveries become the treatments and therapies that benefit patients. The health system derives its inspiration for excellence from its patients and community, and continues to be on the frontlines of developing innovative approaches to care. For more information please visit www.montefiore.org. Follow us on Twitter; like us on Facebook; view us on YouTube.