

Cantor Arts Center

Handle with Care

Halperin Gallery

March 26 – September 28, 2025

Overview

Handle with Care is a collections-based exhibition that explores the handle—a typically overlooked part of many objects, from vessels, cutlery, weapons, mirrors, and so on. On view in the Ruth Levison Halperin Gallery from March 26 to September 28, 2025, the exhibition invites us into the world of objects in a manner that cuts across traditional divisions of geography, chronology, and object classifications, engaging a broad swath of the Cantor’s collection in new ways.

Conceptually, it draws inspiration from the German sociologist Georg Simmel’s 1911 essay, “The Handle,” and aims to take something that everyone deals with every day and invites visitors to slow down and consider, what is this object and how does it bring us to one of the fundamental aspects of our humanity, to touch and grasp and use tools.



The exhibition’s working checklist features 41 objects from the Cantor’s collection, including fragments of handles, shields, cups, mirrors, candlesticks and many other types of objects.

Goals and Impact

- Showcase historical works from the Cantor’s collections, many of which have rarely been on view
- Showcase diverse media, cultures, and time periods
- Invite visitors to engage with objects in new ways
- Collaborate with Stanford faculty around teaching and/or public programming

Scope

1,400 square foot exhibition

Marketing and PR

Core Project Team

Curator: Patrick Crowley

Designer: Albert Lewis

Collections: Katie Clifford, Peg Brady

Project Manager: Lily Soogrim

APP Liaison: Vivian Sming

Milestones

Oct. 2024	Kickoff meeting
Nov. 2024	Draft layout and identify casework needs Finalize checklist
Dec. 2024	Finalize layout Draft exhibition didactics
Feb. 2025	Finalize exhibition didactics
Mar. 2025	Deinstall / gallery prep / install
March 26, 2025	Official public opening
Sept. 28, 2025	Official public closing
Oct. 2025	Debrief meeting