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# CANTOR ARTS CENTER STANFORD UNIVERSITY

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## Guide For Educators



The Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University invites you and your students to explore the world and its cultural heritage. Throughout our galleries and around campus, the university's art collection and changing exhibitions reveal a rich survey of human endeavors and ideas. Our art objects correspond to literature and language, history, social studies, and religions of the world, as well as to mathematics, the sciences, and technology. The Center welcomes groups of all ages to visit the galleries on their own, reserve a group tour with knowledgeable docents, sketch in the galleries or on the grounds, and enjoy a picnic in the adjacent Rodin sculpture garden. Admission to the Center and its exhibitions is free.

This guide will acquaint you with essential information to assure the success of your visits; keep it handy for continued reference. Additional information on current and upcoming exhibitions, programs, and events can be found on the website: <http://museum.stanford.edu>

Introduce your students to the pleasures and insights gained by looking at art firsthand, and let us bring your curriculum to life through visual understanding.

# Preparing to visit

## **Four weeks in advance**

Begin to prepare your class or group for the tour. (See “Preparing your students” later in this guide.) Attend a public tour if you wish to preview your group’s experience at the center.

## **Three weeks in advance**

Confirm your transportation and chaperones. Assure that your chaperones have read the Chaperone Guidelines.

## **Two weeks in advance**

A docent will contact you to confirm details and ask a few questions about your class, your curriculum, and any special requirements your group may have. This is the best time to discuss your preferences for specific galleries, exhibitions, or objects you would like your group to see. Please be aware that requests cannot always be granted, but providing input is the best way to ensure that your tour is relevant to the interests and needs of your students.

## **On the day of your tour**

Before arriving at the Center, divide the students into groups according to the docent’s instructions from your phone call. Remind students and chaperones about visit guidelines. Have each student wear a name tag with his or her first name marked in large letters. If you find that your group is running late, please call 650-723-3469 to let us know; we will do our best to accommodate your late arrival.

# Visit Guidelines

1. Museum rules are posted on Cantor's website at [museum.stanford.edu/visit/protocol](http://museum.stanford.edu/visit/protocol) and on the museum map available in both entrance lobbies. Visitors are reminded not to touch the art, speak above a normal conversational level, or run in galleries.
2. If you plan drawing or writing activities, note that only pencils (no pens, charcoal, or wet media) and paper up to size 18" x 24" are allowed. Bring clipboards or pads for each person, and avoid leaning on walls or pedestals for support. Do not plan a writing activity during a guided tour.
3. Food, drink, gum, smoking, umbrellas, easels, tripods, backpacks (including rigid baby backpacks), and bags larger than 12" x 12" are not allowed. Items may be personally checked at the coatroom off the main lobby. For individual visitors, lockers are available for a refundable 25-cent deposit. Essential medical supplies should be placed in a bag smaller than 12" x 12".
4. Photography (including flash and video) is allowed for personal, non-commercial use only. Photography is not permitted in some galleries containing special exhibitions. School groups are discouraged from bringing more than one camera. Tripods are not allowed.
5. Groups under the age of 18 must include one adult for every 10 children. Chaperones should be familiar with the above guidelines, and are expected to stay with the group. Individual nametags are required for school groups.
6. Please refrain from talking on your cell phone.
7. The Cool Café is an intimate venue for individuals and small groups. Only food purchased at the Café may be consumed there. Large groups may enjoy bag lunches outdoors.
8. Please be aware that artwork exhibited at the Center may contain adult-oriented content, since art is often used to express some of the most serious and profound aspects of human experience. We welcome children to the Center to learn about the adult world of art and to enjoy the many visual pleasures that are on display here. It is our hope that, with each visit, children will become more comfortable with, and knowledgeable about, art, so that it may enrich their lives now and in years to come.

# Preparing your students

Discuss what a museum is and why museums are special places. Explain that, in a museum, objects are displayed, taken care of (conserved), studied, and written about. Visitors in a museum learn about art by viewing and discussing what they see; they can also attend tours, classes, and other programs.

The Cantor Arts Center is a visual arts museum. What other kinds of museums are there? Have your students visited other art museums? Which ones, and what did they see there? Are there advantages in viewing works of art directly rather than as slides or reproductions in books?

You can use the following activity to help students understand why it is important not to touch the artwork on display. Take two small pieces of rough white paper and pass one of them around the classroom. Ask each student to rub it. After everyone has touched the paper, compare it to the piece that was not passed around. Point out that thousands of people visit the Cantor Arts Center each year: imagine the damage that might occur to art objects if everyone touched them!

Review the visit guidelines with all teachers and chaperones accompanying the group. Emphasize to them and your students the importance of respecting the artwork and other visitors. The museum's rules help us to preserve and protect the artwork for future generations to enjoy.

# Follow-up

After visiting the Center, prepare a few activities to enrich the experience. Individually or in groups, students can discuss, write, and draw reactions to their trip. Here are a few ideas:

- Ask students what they liked best at the Center, what they liked least, and what may have surprised them. Is there one object with which they would have liked to spend more time?
- Have students think of two objects that they saw on their tour. How were the objects similar? How were they different?
- Recall themes that came up in the tour. Were there any that were common across very different cultures, time periods, or artistic movements?
- Read a story from a culture or era represented by objects you saw at the Center. What comparisons can students make between the story and the visual art they saw? Are there any recurring motifs that the story and the artwork share? Discuss relationships between literature and visual art.

# General Information

## **NEW Public Hours (beginning Monday, September 22, 2014:**

Wednesday – Monday, 11 am – 5 pm. Thursday, 11 am – 8 pm.  
Closed Tuesday.

**Admission:** Free. Docent-guided tours are free to schools and nonprofit groups.

**Accessibility:** The Cantor Arts Center is wheelchair accessible throughout the building, including restrooms, galleries, and the Café. Wheelchairs are available without charge at the Center's entrances. Assisted listening devices and sign language interpretation for tours and auditorium programs are available with at least one week's notice.

**Directions:** Tours meet in the Center's main lobby facing Lomita Drive at Museum Way.

From Highway 101: Take the Embarcadero exit west and cross El Camino Real. Stay in the left lane as you cross El Camino. The street becomes Galvez Drive. Turn right on Campus Drive. Turn left on Palm Drive and continue until the next intersection, which is Museum Way. Turn right on Museum Way and you will be facing the main entrance to the Center.

From Highway 280: Take Alpine Road exit east. Turn right on Junipero Serra, then left on Campus Drive West. Follow Campus Drive until you reach Palm Drive. Turn right on Palm Drive, continue to Museum Way. Turn right on Museum Way and you will be facing the main entrance to the Center.

**Public Transportation:** Stanford University is accessible by numerous public transportation agencies including Caltrain, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Agency, SamTrans, Bay Area Rapid Transit, Altamont Commuter Express, Dumbarton Express, and the East Bay Express. Please visit the Stanford Transportation website

<http://transportation.stanford.edu> for current schedules and information. The Stanford Marguerite, a free weekday shuttle system, picks up and delivers passengers to and from nearby public transportation stations and university locations, including the Cantor Arts Center, Rodin Sculpture Garden, and Papua New Guinea Sculpture Garden. Marguerite shuttle information can be found at the Stanford Transportation website as well.

**Parking:** Limited pay parking is available in front of the Center on Lomita Drive. Parking in most areas is free after 4 pm and on weekends.