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[Objects as Portals; A Nostalgic Painting: The Message; Transits of Venus; Changing Stories about American Indians](#)  
[Photo Essay Unexpected Discoveries: The Joy of Object Photography](#)  
[Appendix Harvard Collections that Contributed to Tangible Things; Notes; About the Authors; Picture Credits; Index](#)

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**Sommario/riassunto**

In a world obsessed with the virtual, tangible things are once again making history. *Tangible Things* invites readers to look closely at the things around them, ordinary things like the food on their plate and extraordinary things like the transit of planets across the sky. It argues that almost any material thing, when examined closely, can be a link between present and past. The authors of this book pulled an astonishing array of materials out of storage--from a pencil manufactured by Henry David Thoreau to a bracelet made from iridescent beetles--in a wide range of Harvard University collecti

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