



## Violence Against Women Art Map: Exploring Relationships

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**Level: Grades 7-12**

### Lesson Objectives:

- Students will explore relationship dynamics.
- Students will learn characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships.
- Students will examine the postcard series of Italian artist Natalia Saurin entitled [\*Ti Amo Troppo\*](#) or *I Love You Too Much* (2020)

### Materials Needed:

- Article 1: [Safesteps “Teen Dating Violence” \(Safe Steps Family Violence Response Center\)](#)
- Article 2: [“Safety in Relationships” \(Center for Young Women’s Health\)](#)
- Article 3: [“What Does a Healthy Relationship Look Like \(New York State\)](#)
- Article 4: [“Healthy Relationships” \(National Domestic Violence Hotline\)](#)
- Article 5: [“Violence Against Women” \(World Health Organization\)](#)
- Natalia Saurin’s [\*Ti Amo Troppo\*](#) (2020) postcard series
- [“Italian Women Call for Action Against Femicide ”](#) (November 23, 2012) by Sylvia Poggioli (National Public Radio)
- Blank postcards
- Mixed media art supplies such as: pencils, pens, markers, glue, scissors, magazines, yarn or string, ribbon, sewing needles, gems/glitter, buttons, colored paper, felt, fabric

### Summary of Tasks/Actions:

- The teacher introduces Natalia Saurin’s *Ti Amo Troppo* (2020)
- Ask the students to consider the following questions:
  - What do you see in the images?
  - What materials are used? Why do you think the artist chose these materials?
  - Is there something wrong here? What might be the problem?
  - How are the postcards different? How are they the same? Why do you think the artist created so many postcards?
  - Why do you think the artist created the artwork on postcards?
- Divide the class into five groups. Divide the five articles so that each group reads one article exploring healthy relationships and violence against women.

- After reading, invite students to participate in a group discussion. Brainstorm ideas on blackboard or projector.
  - What is a healthy relationship?
  - What is an unhealthy relationship?
  - Why are unhealthy relationships bad? Who gets hurt?
  - How does someone leave an unhealthy relationship? What resources are available? (Provide local resources for students)
- Return to discussion of *Ti Amo Troppo*. Read “[Italian Women Call for Action Against Femicide](#)” (November 23, 2012) by Sylvia Poggioli (National Public Radio)
  - The name of Saurin’s (2020) piece is *I Love You Too Much*. How does reading this article change the way you see the artist’s work?
  - Is it possible to love someone too much?
  - Can too much love lead to violence? Is that really love?
  - Should “crimes of passion” be considered lesser crimes? Why or why not?
  - This piece was created in 2020, the year of the COVID-19 lockdown. How did violence against women change during the COVID-19 lockdown?
- **Artmaking Activity:** Ask students to design postcards depicting a healthy relationship using mixed media materials. Students can depict any relationship, such as children and parents, two parents, romantic partners, or friends etc.

*We would love to see your class projects! Email us at: [vawartmap@gmail.com](mailto:vawartmap@gmail.com)*

## References

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- National Domestic Violence Hotline. (n.d.). *Healthy relationships*. <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/healthy-relationships/>
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World Health Organization. (2021, March 9). *Violence against women*.  
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