



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

References

- Center for Young Women’s Health. (2020, August 4). *Safety in relationships*. <https://youngwomenshealth.org/2013/09/13/safety-in-relationships/>
- National Domestic Violence Hotline. (n.d.). *Healthy relationships*. <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/healthy-relationships/>
- New York State. (n.d.). *What does a healthy relationship look like? Teen Dating Abuse Awareness & Protection*. <https://www.ny.gov/teen-dating-violence-awareness-and-prevention/what-does-healthy-relationship-look>
- Poggioli, S. (2012, November 23). *Italian women call for action against 'femicide.'* National Public Radio. <https://www.npr.org/2012/11/23/165658673/italian-women-call-for-action-against-femicide>
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World Health Organization. (2021, March 9). *Violence against women*.
<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>