



Poster Project: Healing Justice & Revolution of Values
a 45 minute classroom activity
Grades 9-12
By Charlene Martinez, Oregon State University

Lesson Overview: Inspired by the narratives of select posters, students will share ideas and symbols of hope and healing as cultural strategies for belonging.

Suggested Posters:

- Diego Rivera, *Los Frutos del Trabajo (The Fruits of Labor)*, 1932
- Isaac (Isaka) Shamsud-Din, *Rock of Ages*, 1976
- Wendy Red Star, *Indian Summer, from the series Four Seasons*, 2006
- Sonya Clark, *Penny Loafers*, 2010

Materials:

- Blank 8.5x11 paper
- Markers, pens, pencils, craft supplies

Background & Inspiration: The students at Oregon State University (2015-2018) created a deck of "Healing Cards." Each card contained a value (e.g. Community, Persist, Write, Music) that students wanted to center for their own healing. The deck was birthed out of stories from students who navigated feelings of not belonging to a particular community or group. After they shared stories they generated ideas and symbols that helped them (re)center hope and healing in times of distress. On the back of each card contains reflection questions pertaining to the value.

Before the Lesson:

1. Include a slide with the quote: "How are we transforming ourselves and living our values while we fight to be liberated and free? What is the internal work we're doing that shows up in the external struggle?" – Eroc Arroyo-Montano, Healing Justice Podcast
2. Create an example of a "healing card" – see #3 below in Lesson Steps.

Lesson Steps:

1. Put the students in groups of four. Supply each group with a copy of one of the posters along with the accompanying description of the piece.
2. Invite the students to reflect on the following questions in their small groups (20 min)
 - What social issues could this poster connect with? (e.g. race, class, gender, ability, migration, assimilation, culture)



PORTLAND ART MUSEUM

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- What values do you believe the artist is communicating in this artwork?
 - What values are important to you?
 - When you experience belonging what comes to mind?
3. Give each group paper and pens, have them write one of the values at the top of the paper and then draw or create a corresponding symbol to depict the word. (15 min)
 - For example, "Create" would be at the top of the paper and then a corresponding image could be a paint brush or music notes.
 4. Depending upon the dynamic of the group, either allow the groups to present the images and words to each other, or collect the papers and read them out loud to the entire group (8 min)
 5. Go around the room and allow students to share one word to "Checkout" about the experience, how they are feeling, or what they gained from the activity (2 min)