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Dear Data



Synopsis

Equal parts mail art, data visualization, and affectionate correspondence, *Dear Data* celebrates "the infinitesimal, incomplete, imperfect, yet exquisitely human details of life," in the words of Maria Popova (Brain Pickings), who introduces this charming and graphically powerful book. For one year, Giorgia Lupi, an Italian living in New York, and Stefanie Posavec, an American in London, mapped the particulars of their daily lives as a series of hand-drawn postcards they exchanged via mail weekly—small portraits as full of emotion as they are data, both mundane and magical. *Dear Data* reproduces in pinpoint detail the full year's set of cards, front and back, providing a remarkable portrait of two artists connected by their attention to the details of their lives—including complaints, distractions, phone addictions, physical contact, and desires. These details illuminate the lives of two remarkable young women and also inspire us to map our own lives, including specific suggestions on what data to draw and how. A captivating and unique book for designers, artists, correspondents, friends, and lovers everywhere.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"In other words, *'Dear Data'* paints a human portrait with data. With each graph and information map, we get a deeper sense of the authors' personalities. What emerges from this information overload is a fascinating catalogue of the complexity of daily living. By tracking such minutiae, Lupi and Posavec, who both work in information design, reveal the patterns that inform our decisions and affect our relationships."—*The Washington Post* "Despite the vast amount of

quantification, Dear Data feels almost like an anti-quantified self project. Lupi and Posavec aren't interested in calories, steps, or heart rate. Their project explores the more slippery details of daily life. This human-centric data is the reason why Dear Data doesn't read as detached self-analysis. There are insights to be found, even in the categories they chose."- Wired

"Dedicate the time and the information encoded in Lupi and Posavec's postcards is not only revealing, but poignant. As well as choosing topics around items, such as the contents of their wardrobes or the number of drinks they'd had that week, the pair also scrutinised their behaviour." "Both are mind-boggling intricate. The keys to each chart are minute, cypher-like instructions, peppered with anecdotes and asides."- The Guardian

"Such an information-reach year could inspire others to better calculate aspects of their lives they never thought to tabulate, with the goal of seeing patterns and perhaps fine-tuning negative behavior. And better yet, illustrating our life's data by hand can allow us to slow down and invigorate our creative selves beyond the digital."- Vice, Motherboard

"Through the process of examining their worlds in new ways, and noting emotions, sounds, and thoughts Lupi and Posavec, like the pre-telecommunication era Decker writes about, reveal a sense of space and time that we'd never considered. Through their weekly postcard exchange the two got to know each other, and themselves. The world around them was data to be collected, to be examined."- Data Matters, Center for Data Art, The New School

"Experiencing the project anew, in this beautiful analog form, only amplifies its deeply humane ethos of reclaiming the living texture of "data" in our everyday lives from the word's unfeeling, algorithmic, non-human connotations." - Brain Pickings

"Dear Data is a revelation of the human face of data." - Quartz

"Lupi and Posavec's approach teaches mental and emotional attentiveness. Their examples inspire you to think creatively about your personal habits, and to approach them with a slowness that lets you reflect on their meaning." - Quartz

"...a remarkable visual snapshot of the lives of two bright women corresponding with each other in innovative ways and will appeal to designers and best friends alike...With each pair of postcards presented side by side, readers immediately experience Lupi and Posavec's different styles and sensibilities and witness how they influence and complement each other over the course of this year." - Publishers Weekly

This book is the story of how we, Giorgia and Stefanie, became friends through revealing to each other the details of our daily lives. But we didn't do this by chatting in caf  s and bars or on social media. Instead we started an old-fashioned correspondence with an unusual twist. Each week, for a year, we sent each other a postcard describing what had happened to the other during

that week. But we didn't write what had happened - we drew it. And we didn't try to draw about everything that had happened to us: we selected a weekly theme. Every Monday we chose a particular subject on which to collect data about ourselves for the whole week: how often we complained, or the times when we felt envious; when we came into physical contact and with whom; the sounds we heard around us. We then created a drawing representing this data on a postcard-sized sheet of paper, and dropped the postcard into an English post box (Stefanie) or an American mail box (Giorgia). We started Dear Data as a way to get know each other through our data, the material that is most familiar to us: but we soon found we were also becoming more in-tune with ourselves as we captured the life unfolding around us and sketched the hidden patterns we discovered in the details. By noticing our behaviour, we were influencing our behaviour. We believe data collected from life can be a snapshot of the world in the same way that a picture catches small moments in time. Data can describe the hidden patterns found in every aspect of our lives, from our digital existence to the natural world around us. Every plant, every person, every interaction we take part in can be mapped, counted, and measured, and these measurements are what we call data. We hope this book will inspire you in many ways: to draw (even if you don't think of yourself as an artist), to slow down and appreciate the small details of your life, and to make connections with other people. You'll find our fifty-two cards in this book, along with the thoughts we had while conceiving and crafting them.

Love it, my dataviz-geek friend that I bought a copy for loves it even more. Thanks, NPR, for interviewing the authors and clue-ing me in to this gem.

If you are visual you will enjoy this artistic representation on a simple postcard between 2 women who weekly recorded a facet of their life. You can spend hours in the detail of the messages.

Novel and fun book for anyone that is focused on graphic design, data viz, or art.

The book was in perfect condition just like the description described

Wow! I got to see this before the book was published in Milan, Italy during Design week. So glad to be able to have the book to go through at my leisure. Filled with beautiful ways of seeing their thoughts and feelings.

I bought it twice, one for me and the other for a present

This was a gift to a colleague, and she thinks it is an "Amazing" book (her words). No details yet, but her feedback matches the reviews the book has so far received.

Bought this as a gift for a friend. She loves it and so do I! The visuals and the content are amazing. A great "read" for people that don't do long reads.

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