



2025 AP[®] 2-D Art and Design

Sustained Investigation and Selected Works

Written Evidence

Sustained Investigation

Identify the inquiry that guided your sustained investigation.

Response:

My SI question is "How can I use visual language to explore the emotional and psychological boundaries between myself and the world around me?" As I move through public and private spaces, like, subways, restaurants, and my home, I often feel a disconnect between what is seen on the outside and what is felt internally. I used my SI to explore the tension between collective experience and personal emotion. Through surreal color, distortion,(12), and layered compositions(14), I represent my inner responses to the external world.

Describe ways your sustained investigation developed through practice, experimentation, and revision.

Response:

My SI developed through experimentation with color, composition, and material exploring my sense of self within the world around me. 1,2 were more personal, focusing on my family. As I moved into works about friendship and strangers, I used visual chaos and tighter compositions to reflect alienation and overstimulation. In 6, 9, I experimented with materials like foil and yarn to break the flat surface expressing inner conflict. In 4,10, I changed the composition to create a stronger emotional collage. My sketchbook pages document how changes in concept and experimentation guided my revisions.



Image 1

Sustained Investigation

Height: 22

Width: 18

Materials: Acrylic, colored pencil.

Process(es):

Started with a rough colored pencil sketch, then painted with acrylic.

Use of Digital Tool(s): No



Image 2

Sustained Investigation

Height: 22

Width: 18

Materials: Oil, canvas, Procreate.

Process(es):

Painted on canvas, then edited colors digitally to capture a joyful moment with my mother.

Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes

Digital Tool(s) used:

Procreate. I used procreate to add detail and edited colors.

Image 3

Sustained Investigation

Height: N/A

Width: N/A

Materials:

Oil, pencil, colored pencil, canvas, Procreate.

Process(es):

Sketch first, color testing, then painted in acrylic before editing digitally.

Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes

Digital Tool(s) used:

Procreate. I use procreate to made the sketchbook page.





Image 4

Sustained Investigation

Height: 11

Width: 18

Materials:

Pencil, Charcoal, Tracing Paper

Process(es):

Pencil on tracing paper, then collaged to reveal hidden tension among friends.

Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes

Digital Tool(s) used:

Procreate. I used procreate to made the collage.

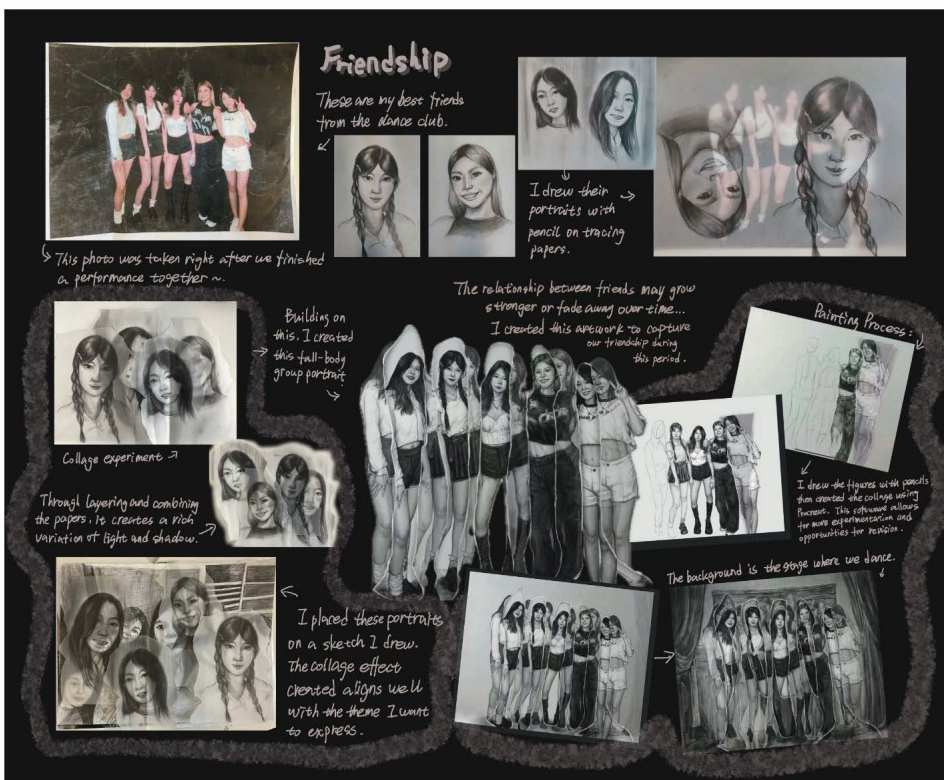


Image 5

Sustained Investigation

Height: N/A

Width: N/A

Materials:

Pencil, Charcoal, Tracing Paper, Procreate.

Process(es):

Tested tracing paper transparency, then experimented with different methods of collage digitally.

Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes

Digital Tool(s) used:

Procreate. I used procreate to made the sketchbook page.

Image 6

Sustained Investigation

Height: 20

Width: 16

Materials:

Yarn, Wooden beads, Semi-hard Pastel,
Acrylic

Process(es):

Sketched in pastel first, then painted in
acrylic, pierced holes, and threaded yarn
through them.

Use of Digital Tool(s): No



Sustained Investigation

Width: N/A

Yarn, Wooden beads, Pastel, Acrylic

Sketched first, painted with acrylic, and then experimented with materials like yarn and wood beads.

Digital Tool(s) used:

Procreate. I used procreate to made the sketchbook page.





Image 8

Sustained Investigation

Height: 20

Width: 16

Materials:

Acrylic, watercolor, water-soluble
colored pencil.

Process(es):

Sketched, applied a watercolor
underpainting, and then finished with
acrylic.

Use of Digital Tool(s): No



Image 9

Sustained Investigation

Height: 18

Width: 14

Materials:

Acrylic, mixed-media paper, foil, and hot glue.

Process(es):

Painted in acrylic on paper, creating shapes using foil, and glued it on top.

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Image 10

Sustained Investigation

Height: 11

Width: 18

Materials:

Acrylic, colored pencil, photocopies of my original paintings, exacto knife, glue.

Process(es):

Painted in acrylic, made copies, then collaged to show how the external world shape one's identity.

Use of Digital Tool(s): No



Image 11

Sustained Investigation

Height: N/A

Width: N/A

Materials:

Acrylic, colored pencil, photocopies of my original paintings, exacto knife, glue.

Process(es):

Research and sketch first, then paint and experiment with different collage techniques.

Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes

Digital Tool(s) used:

Procreate. I used procreate to made the sketchbook page.





Image 12

Sustained Investigation

Height: 20

Width: 18

Materials: Oil Painting, colored pencil.

Process(es):

Sketched in pencil, added underpainting, finished in oil to show alienation through distortion.

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Image 13

Sustained Investigation

Height: N/A

Width: N/A

Materials: Oil Painting, colored pencil.

Process(es):

Initial sketches exploring perspectives, followed by revisions and a final rendering in oil.

Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes

Digital Tool(s) used:

Procreate. I used procreate to made the sketchbook page.





Image 14

Sustained Investigation

Height: 14

Width: 18

Materials:

Acrylic and charcoal, Procreate

Process(es):

Acrylic and charcoal base, added blur and details digitally to show quiet disconnection in transit.

Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes

Digital Tool(s) used:

Procreate. I use procreate to add detail and blurring effect.

Image 15

Sustained Investigation

Height: N/A

Width: N/A

Materials:

Acrylic and charcoal, Procreate

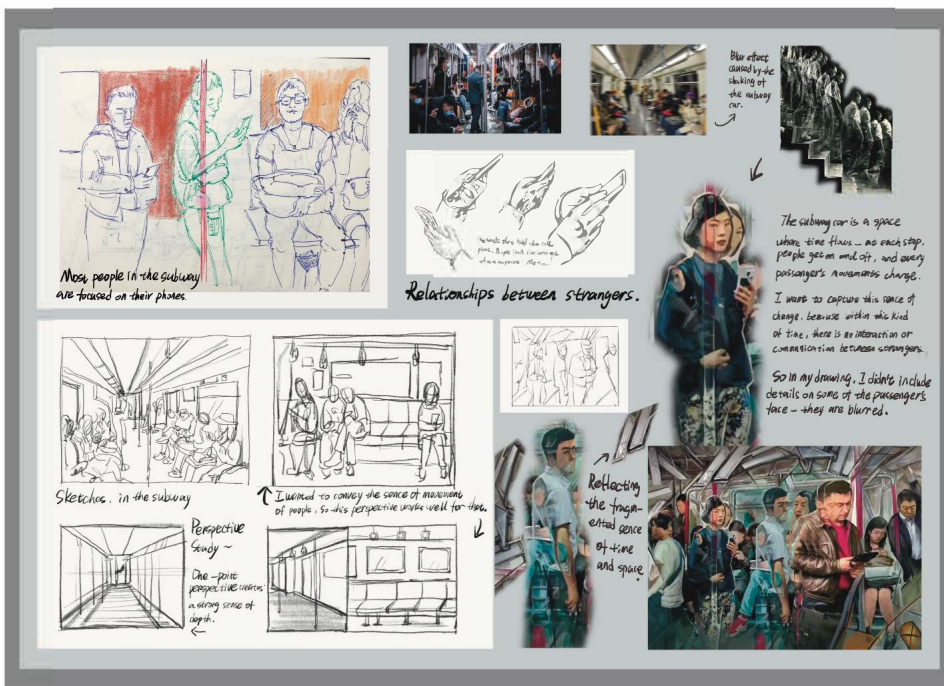
Process(es):

Explored perspectives through sketches, painted on paper, and digitally added blur and detail.

Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes

Digital Tool(s) used:

Procreate. I used procreate to made the sketchbook page.



Sustained Investigation—Score 3/3/3/3

Scoring Criteria

Score Rationale

Row A: **Inquiry**

Score: 3

Written evidence **identifies** an inquiry.

AND

Visual evidence **demonstrates** the inquiry.

AND

The inquiry **guides** the development of the sustained investigation.

The written evidence clearly identifies an inquiry: “explore the tension between collective experience and personal emotion,” described as “being disconnected between what is seen on the outside and what is felt internally.” This framing goes beyond a broad theme by posing a conceptual tension that invites exploration and discovery.

Visual evidence supports this inquiry throughout the portfolio. In Images 6, 10, and 14, the subject appears both exposed and emotionally withdrawn, visually conveying the contrast between external perception and internal experience. The use of composition, expression, and space reinforces the emotional distance described in the inquiry.

The inquiry guides the development of the sustained investigation by shaping both the conceptual focus and the evolution of the images. For example, Image 14 and the process work in Image 15 show evidence of revision and intentional decision-making connected to the inquiry. The artist experiments with media, including digital editing, to deepen the contrast between personal emotion and collective visibility, bringing cohesion and purpose to the visual narrative.

Summary: The written evidence establishes a clear and specific inquiry. Visual evidence reinforces the inquiry through emotionally resonant compositions. The consistent exploration of this tension across images shows that the inquiry effectively guides the development of the sustained investigation.

Row B: **Practice, Experimentation, and Revision**

Score: 3

Visual evidence of practice, experimentation, **AND** revision **demonstrates development** of the sustained investigation.

Visual evidence of practice, experimentation, and revision demonstrates the development of the sustained investigation. In Images 6 and 9, the use of yarn, wooden beads, and foil transforms the surface and adds dimensionality to the work. These material changes reflect intentional revision that strengthens the investigation’s focus on emotional tension. Image 2 also shows development, where traditional oil and colored pencil techniques evolve through digital manipulation in

AND

Written evidence **describes how** the sustained investigation **developed** through practice, experimentation, **AND** revision.

Procreate. This experimentation reimagines the composition and introduces new layers of meaning.

The written evidence supports this growth, stating, “My SI developed through experimentation with color, composition, and material,” and connects this to an exploration of “my sense of self within the world around me.” In Image 4, the explanation of using “pencil on tracing paper, then collaged to reveal hidden tension among friends” reveals experimentation with materials and revision in structure. The torn edges and overlapping figures visually support the emotional complexity described, showing that the investigation advances through sustained, purposeful process.

Summary: The works show ongoing development through visible experimentation, material testing, and compositional changes. Written evidence directly explains how specific processes contributed to the evolution of the investigation, with practice and revision clearly shaping the final results.

Row C: Materials, Processes, and Ideas

Score: 3

Visual relationships among materials, processes, **AND** ideas are **evident** and **demonstrate synthesis**

Visual relationships among materials, processes, and ideas are consistently evident and demonstrate synthesis throughout the sustained investigation. The intent to “use visual language to explore the emotional and psychological boundaries” through “the tension between collective experience and personal emotion” is supported by the integration of media choices and conceptual strategies in multiple images. In Image 4, pencil, charcoal, and tracing paper are layered and collaged to reveal hidden tension among friends. This combination of materials and techniques directly supports the conceptual aim and demonstrates a cohesive relationship between form and idea.

Image 7 includes a written component that reads, “Relationships between people are sometimes like this string of beads—each bead seems separate, but there’s a connection tying them together.” This idea is synthesized visually in Image 6, which uses yarn, wooden beads, semi-hard pastel, and acrylic to depict individuals bound by internal conflict. The materials and the compositional process work together to make the conceptual connection visible.

Image 10 extends this synthesis by using paper weaving and shallow relief to reconstruct five figures from different

angles using duplicated paintings. This Cubist-inspired process reflects the concept of identity shaped by external forces and personal fragmentation. Across the body of work, intentional pairings of media and techniques with conceptual goals create a clear and sustained synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas.

Summary: The works consistently show integrated relationships among materials, processes, and ideas. These combinations are not only visually cohesive but conceptually purposeful, clearly supporting the sustained investigation. Synthesis is evident through repeated, thoughtful connections between what is used, how it is used, and what it communicates.

Row D: **2-D Art and Design Skills**

Score: 3

Visual evidence of **good and advanced** 2-D skills.

Visual evidence across the sustained investigation demonstrates good and advanced application of 2-D skills. In Image 15, advanced layering techniques, use of form, opacity, and repetition result in a strong visual structure. The brighter, isolated figure draws the eye and establishes a clear focal point, visually conveying the idea of “quiet disconnection in transit.” Compositional choices support the emotional and conceptual goals while also showcasing refined control of 2-D elements.

Although Image 10 is densely constructed and uses paper weaving and layered self-portraits, the lack of a dominant focal point makes the visual intent more difficult to interpret. However, the complexity of the process and the use of repetition and spatial organization still reflect good 2-D design skills, even if the clarity of intent is less resolved.

Summary: The portfolio includes visual evidence of both good and advanced 2-D skills, seen in the control of compositional elements and purposeful visual strategies. Works like Image 15 demonstrate highly developed skills, while even more complex compositions like Image 10 show proficient design choices that contribute to the overall accomplishment.



Work 1

Selected Works

Height: 22

Width: 18

Idea(s):

A vivid memory with my brother, colorful details reflect the warmth and joy of family connection.

Materials: Acrylic, colored pencil.

Process(es):

Started with a rough colored pencil sketch, then painted with acrylic.

Use of Digital Tool(s): No



Work 2

Selected Works

Height: 12

Width: 18

Idea(s):

This torn drawing reveals the fragile, hidden tension between me and my closest friends.

Materials:

Pencil, tracing paper, Procreate

Process(es):

Pencil drawing on tracing paper, then transfer digitally, last create the collage in Procreate.

Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes

Digital Tool(s) used:

Procreate. I used procreate to made the collage.



Work 3

Selected Works

Height: 20

Width: 16

Idea(s):

Entangled in fluid-like gestures, this work explores silent tension between close friendships.

Materials:

Exacto knife, Acrylic, Mixed media paper

Process(es):

Sketch on mixed media paper first, paint over it with oil, and then cut patterns into the paper.

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Work 4

Selected Works

Height: 11

Width: 18

Idea(s):

Among strangers, the outside world becomes a quiet collage shaping my sense of self.

Materials:

Acrylic, colored pencil, Exacto knife,
photocopies of my original painting

Process(es):

Painted in acrylic, made copies, and then created a collage.

Use of Digital Tool(s): No





Work 5

Selected Works

Height: 11

Width: 18

Idea(s):

Surrounded by strangers on a crowded train ride, I observe this quiet disconnection in motion.

Materials:

Acrylic and charcoal, Procreate

Process(es):

Started with a rough acrylic and charcoal painting, then added layers and details digitally.

Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes

Digital Tool(s) used:

Procreate. I used procreate to add detail and made the blurring effect.

Selected Works—Score 5

Scoring Criteria

Writing

Written evidence identifies materials, processes, and ideas.

Score Rationale

The written evidence identifies materials, processes, and ideas in a way that clearly supports the visual work. In Work 2, the idea is described as “This torn drawing reveals the fragile, hidden tension between me and my closest friends.” This conceptual focus is supported by a description of materials—pencil, tracing paper, and digital collage—and the process used: drawing, digital transfer, and collage assembly in Procreate. The written evidence explains how the selected materials and steps were intentionally used to convey emotional and psychological tension.

Across the Selected Works, similar clarity appears in each written explanation, with consistent references to material choices, digital and traditional processes, and the underlying emotional or conceptual goal of each piece.

Summary: The written evidence identifies materials, processes, and ideas, fully meeting the expectations for a score of 5 in this category.

2-D Art and Design Skills

Visual evidence of **advanced** 2-D **skills**.

Visual evidence of advanced 2-D skills is consistently demonstrated across the Selected Works. In Work 2, torn tracing paper layered with pencil drawing and digital collage creates a sense of fragility and emotional tension. Controlled transparency and texture establish a strong figure/ground relationship, reinforcing the work’s conceptual focus.

Work 4 demonstrates advanced spatial organization through repetition and alignment of portrait fragments. The precise cuts and structured weaving of the imagery create visual rhythm and suggest internal fragmentation. In Work 5, digital layering, selective opacity, and saturated color guide the viewer’s eye to key elements, using contrast and composition to heighten the emotional tone.

Across all Selected Works, compositional control, technical precision, and purposeful visual strategies show highly developed 2-D design skills.

Summary: The Selected Works show visual evidence of advanced 2-D skills through refined layering, compositional balance, and spatial control. These skills are applied with precision and intent, fully meeting the criteria for a score of 5.

Materials, Processes, and Ideas

Visual relationships among materials, processes, and ideas are **evident** and **demonstrate synthesis**.

Selected Works 1–5 consistently demonstrate synthesis through strong visual relationships among materials, processes, and ideas. In Work 1, acrylic paint and expressive mark-making convey the warmth and energy of a vivid family memory.

Layering, directional movement, and bold color work together to connect the emotional content with the visual composition.

In Work 2, repeated portraits are collaged digitally using torn tracing paper, physically and conceptually reinforcing themes of fragmentation and hidden emotional tension among close friends. The material choices and compositional strategy align directly with the idea.

Work 3 uses precise painting and cut paper techniques to create structural alignment that reflects silent interpersonal tension. The spatial organization strengthens the conceptual intent. In Work 4, materials such as acrylic, colored pencil, photocopies, and weaving distort the figure and visually express the external pressures shaping identity. Each process supports the conceptual aim.

Work 5 brings together digital manipulation, high-contrast color, and layered imagery to depict emotional disconnection in a crowded setting. Strategic use of opacity and spatial separation strengthens the visual and conceptual relationship.

Summary: Selected Works 1–5 demonstrate clear and consistent synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas. Each work shows purposeful decisions that integrate form and meaning, fully meeting the criteria for a score of 5.