2025 AP® 2-D Art and Design

Sustained Investigation

Analytic Scoring Rubric and Score Rationale

Row C–Score 3

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

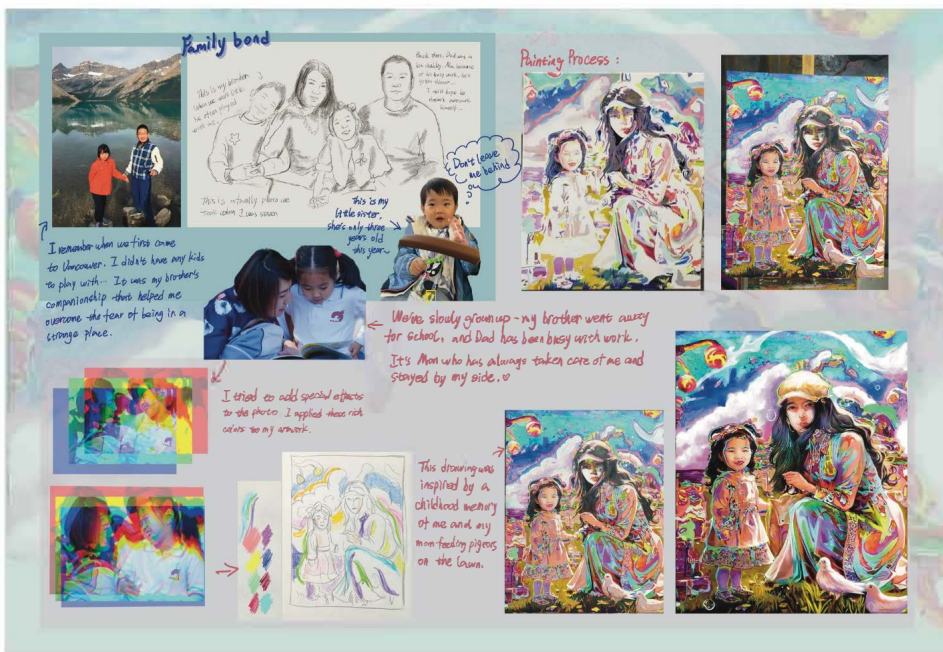Width: 18

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

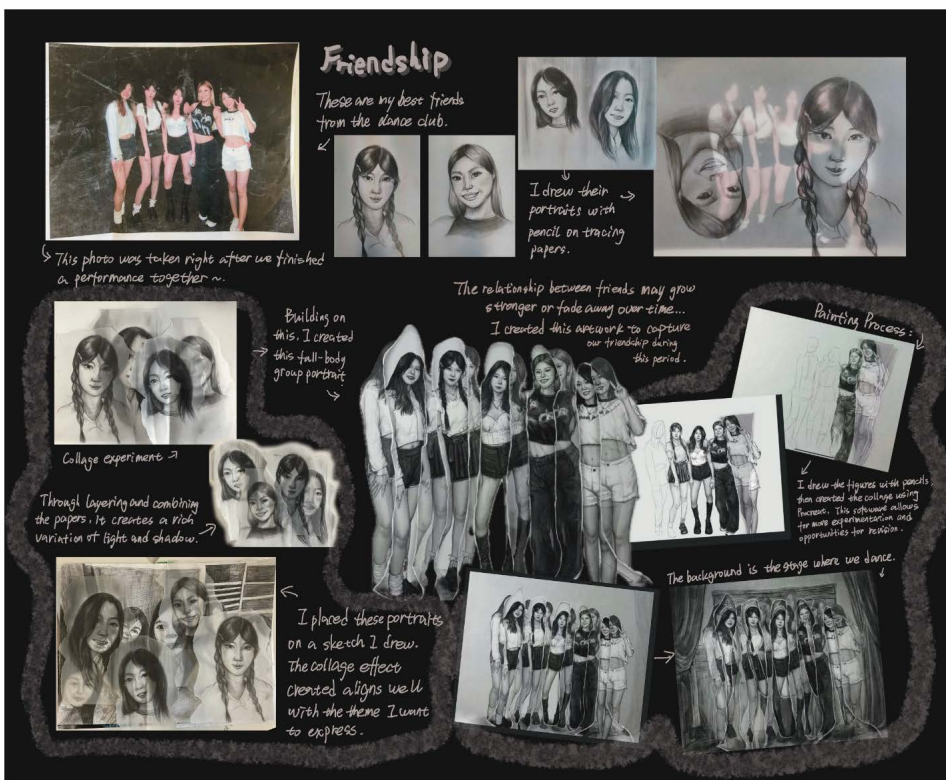Width: 18

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.

The artwork collage contains the following handwritten annotations:

Friendship

These are my best friends from the dance club.

This photo was taken right after we finished a performance together ~

I drew their portraits with pencil on tracing papers.

The relationship between friends may grow stronger or fade away over time... I created this artwork to capture our friendship during this period.

Building on this, I created this full-body group portrait

Collage experiment →

Through layering and combining the papers, it creates a rich variation of light and shadow.

I placed these portraits on a sketch I drew. The collage effect created aligns well with the theme I want to express.

Painting Process:

I drew the figures with pencils then created the collage using Procreate. This software allows for more experimentation and opportunities for revision.

The background is the stage where we dance.

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

Image 7

Sustained Investigation

Height: N/A

Width: N/A

Materials:

Yarn, Wooden beads, Pastel, Acrylic

Process(es):

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

Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes

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
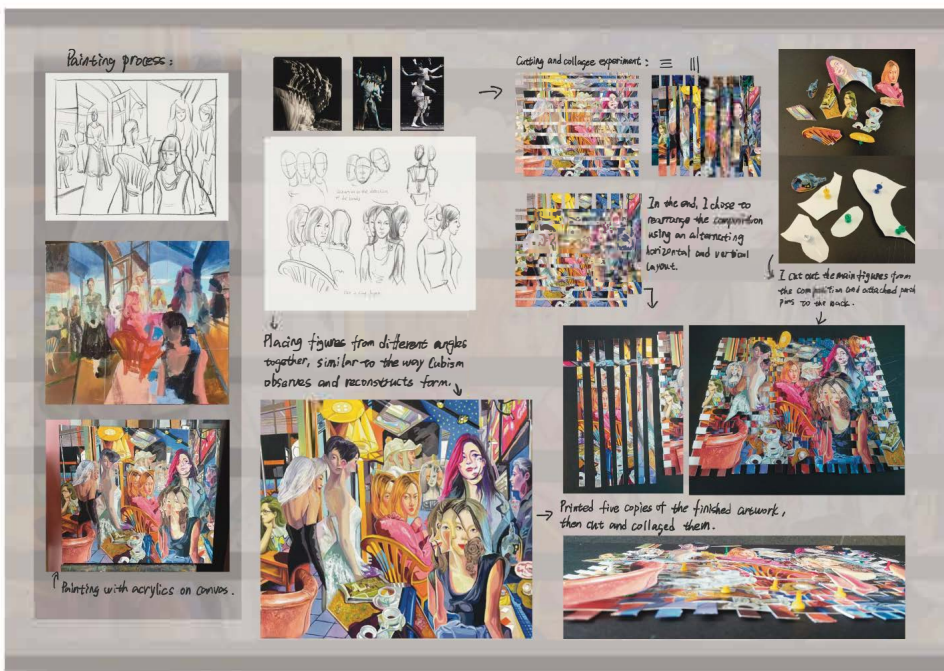
Sustained Investigation

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

Painting process:

Painting with acrylics on canvas.

Placing figures from different angles together, similar to the way Cubism observes and reconstructs form.

Cutting and collage experiment:

In the end, I chose to rearrange the composition using an alternating horizontal and vertical layout.

I cut out the main figures from the composition and attached push pins to the back.

Printed five copies of the finished artwork, then cut and collaged them.

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
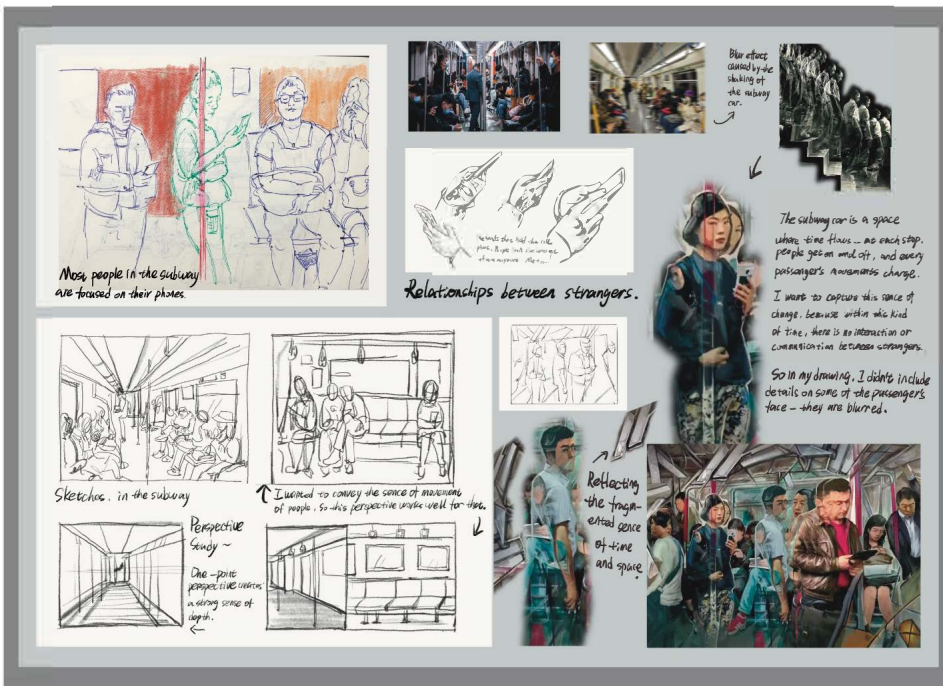
Width: N/A

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.

Analytic Scoring Rubric Row C: Materials, Processes, and Ideas

1	2	3
Little to no evidence of **visual relationships** among materials, processes, and ideas.	**Visual relationships** among materials, processes, and ideas are **evident**.	**Visual relationships** among materials, processes, and ideas are **evident** and **demonstrate synthesis**.

Score Rationale

This portfolio earns a score of 3 because visual relationships among materials, processes, and ideas are consistently evident and demonstrate synthesis. The inquiry explores "the tension between collective experience and personal emotion," and this concept is developed through thoughtful material choices and image construction. In Image 4, the use of pencil, charcoal, and tracing paper allows for layering and transparency, visually reinforcing the idea of "hidden tension among friends." In Image 7, the written evidence includes a metaphor, "each bead seems separate, but there's a connection tying them together," which is later realized in Image 6 through the use of yarn, wooden beads, pastel, and acrylic. These materials and processes integrate to portray individuals linked by unseen emotional conflict.

Synthesis is further demonstrated in Image 10, where five versions of the same figure are cut, rearranged, and collaged using paper weaving to express how external forces shape identity. This technique, inspired by Cubism, enhances the psychological impact of the work by merging fragmented views of the same subject. The consistent alignment between conceptual intent, visual execution, and material handling across the portfolio supports a high level of synthesis.

Summary: This portfolio earns a score of 3 because visual relationships among materials, processes, and ideas are integrated throughout the sustained investigation. The artist consistently makes intentional choices that connect meaning, materials, and design, demonstrating synthesis across the body of work.

Image 6

Image 10

Sustained Investigation Score: • Row A: Score: 3 • Row B: Score: 2/3 • **Row C: Score: 3** • Row D: Score: 3