



2025 AP[®] 3-D Art and Design

Sustained Investigation

Analytic Scoring Rubric and Score Rationale

Row A—Score 1

Written Evidence

Sustained Investigation

Identify the inquiry that guided your sustained investigation.

Response:

I've always had an obsession with horror and very creepy figures I would see while growing up, but I could never afford one. Art has been a passion of mine for many years, but I've noticed how that feeling slowly faded away. Still, when I found out about polymer clay and realized that I'm good at making things out of it, I was able to find the same feeling I used to get, and I'm able to create these sculptures I've always dreamed about. In my sustained investigation, I found my spark through my childhood ideas and dreams. I believe anyone can explore and discover their spark just like me.

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

Response:

My theme consists of gore with the idea of having overwhelming and high anxiety throughout my life and the decisions I've made. I incorporated my emotions through my sculptures with all the blood and gore to show my constant thoughts that resemble the messiness of it all. This journey has been able to help me cope with my emotions and has made me a better person overall. I always used to be confused with my feelings, and I can express it that way with this clay. I can also experiment differently with my art style and show a new part of myself.



Image 1

Sustained Investigation

Height: 5

Width: 2.5

Depth: 0

Materials:

paper, pencil, eraser, coloring pencils

Process(es):

sketched out in sections, defined any details, then colored

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Citation(s): original work



Image 2

Sustained Investigation

Height: 3.5

Width: 2.25

Depth: 1.5

Materials:

Polymer Clay, Blade tool, Wooden,
Round Loop tool, Oven, Paint Brushes,
Paint

Process(es):

sketched out idea, sculpt creature in a
few pieces, baked then painted

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Citation(s): original work



Image 3

Sustained Investigation

Height: 3.5

Width: 2.25

Depth: 1.5

Materials:

Polymer Clay, Blade tool, Wooden, Round Loop tool, Oven, Paint Brushes, Paint

Process(es):

sketched out idea, sculpt creature in a few pieces, baked then painted

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Citation(s): Original work



Image 4

Sustained Investigation

Height: 7.5

Width: 4.5

Depth: 0

Materials:

paper, pencil, eraser, pen, markers

Process(es):

sketched out the main idea, traced over the sketch with pen, then colored with markers

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Citation(s):

inspired by the movie "Child's Play 2"



Image 5

Sustained Investigation

Height: 5

Width: 1.75

Depth: 2

Materials:

Polymer Clay, Needle tool, Ball stylus,
Wire, Oven, Paint brushes, Paint

Process(es):

sketched out idea, sculpt creature in a
few pieces, baked then painted

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Citation(s):

inspired by the movie "Child's Play 2"



Image 6

Sustained Investigation

Height: 5

Width: 1.75

Depth: 2

Materials:

Polymer Clay, Needle tool, Ball stylus,
Wire, Oven, Paint brushes, Paint

Process(es):

sketched out idea, sculpt creature in a
few pieces, baked then painted

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Citation(s):

inspired by the movie "Child's Play 2"

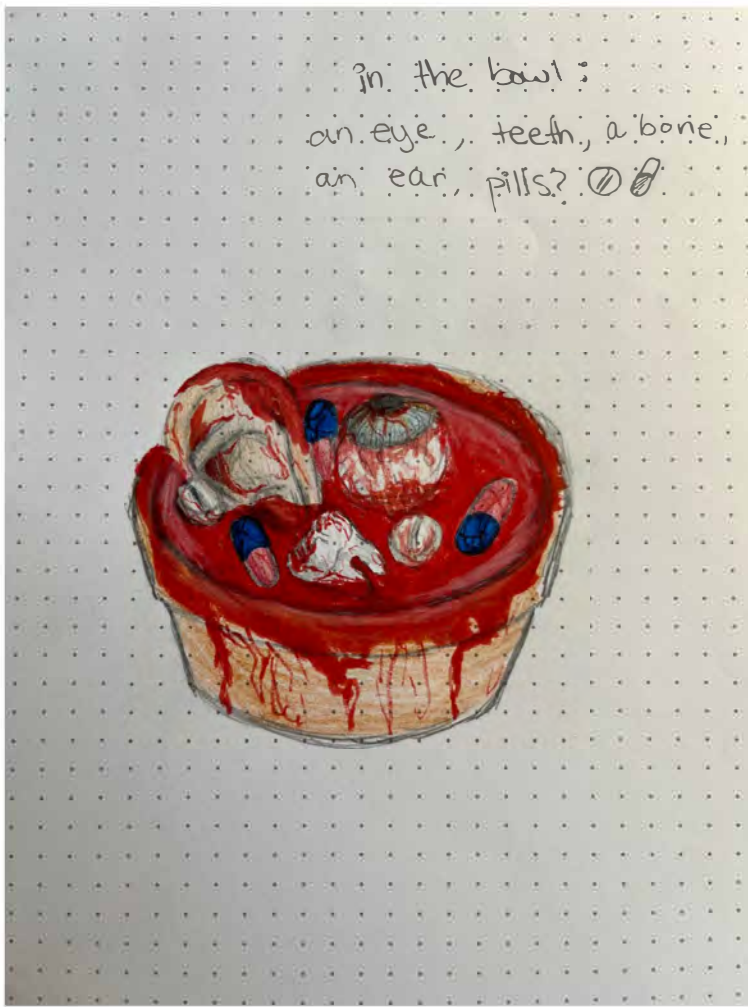


Image 7

Sustained Investigation

Height: 2.5

Width: 3

Depth: 0

Materials:

paper, pencil, eraser, coloring pencils,
markers

Process(es):

sketched out, then colored with markers
and coloring pencils

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Citation(s): original work



Image 8

Sustained Investigation

Height: 1

Width: 2.5

Depth: 2

Materials:

Polymer Clay, Blade tool, Round Loop tool, Oven, Paint Brushes, Paint

Process(es):

sketched out idea, sculpt creature in several pieces, baked then painted

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Citation(s): original work



Image 9

Sustained Investigation

Height: 1

Width: 2.5

Depth: 2

Materials:

Polymer Clay, Blade tool, Round Loop tool, Oven, Paint Brushes, Paint

Process(es):

sketched out idea, sculpt creature in several pieces, baked then painted

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Citation(s): original work



Image 10

Sustained Investigation

Height: 7

Width: 3.5

Depth: 0

Materials: paper, pencil, eraser

Process(es):

sketched out idea , then added shadows.

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Citation(s): original work



Image 11

Sustained Investigation

Height: 1.75

Width: 5.25

Depth: 2

Materials:

Polymer Clay, Needle tool, Ball stylus,
Oven, Paint brushes, Paint

Process(es):

sketched out idea, sculpt creature in a
few pieces, baked then painted

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Citation(s): original work



Image 12

Sustained Investigation

Height: 1.75

Width: 5.25

Depth: 2

Materials:

Polymer Clay, Needle tool, Ball stylus,
Oven, Paint brushes, Paint

Process(es):

sketched out idea, sculpt creature in a
few pieces, baked then painted

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Citation(s): original work



Image 13

Sustained Investigation

Height: 2.5

Width: 2.5

Depth: 0

Materials:

paper, pencil, pen, eraser, coloring
pencils

Process(es):

sketched out the main idea, traced over
the sketch with pen, then colored

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Citation(s): original work



Image 14

Sustained Investigation

Height: 2.25

Width: 1.75

Depth: 1.25

Materials:

Polymer Clay, Needle tool, Ball stylus,
Oven, Paint brushes, Paint

Process(es):

sketched out idea, sculpt creature in a
few pieces, baked then painted

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Citation(s): original work



Image 15

Sustained Investigation

Height: 2.25

Width: 1.75

Depth: 1.25

Materials:

Polymer Clay, Needle tool, Ball stylus,
Oven, Paint brushes, Paint

Process(es):

sketched out idea, sculpt creature in a
few pieces, baked then painted

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Citation(s): original work

Analytic Scoring Rubric Row A: Inquiry

Writing Prompt 1: *Identify the inquiry that guided your sustained investigation.*

1	2	3
Written evidence does not identify an inquiry.	Written evidence identifies an inquiry AND Visual evidence demonstrates the inquiry.	Written evidence identifies an inquiry. AND Visual evidence demonstrates the inquiry. AND The inquiry guides the development of the sustained investigation.

Score Rationale

This portfolio earned a score of 1 because the written evidence does not identify an inquiry. The response presents a personal narrative and references a general theme of “childhood ideas and dreams,” but it does not describe a process of discovery or questioning that guided the body of work. Statements such as “I’ve always had an obsession with horror and very creepy figures” and “I found my spark through my childhood ideas” describe inspiration but not a focused investigation.

The visual evidence supports the stated interest in horror but also lacks evidence of an evolving or guided investigation. For example, in Images 2 and 6, grotesque polymer clay figures align with the artist’s described obsession, but there is no indication of how these forms explore deeper ideas or questions. The portfolio instead reads as a collection of themed pieces rather than a sustained exploration.

Summary: The written evidence does not identify an inquiry, and the visual evidence does not demonstrate an investigation guided by questioning or discovery. Together, they support a score of 1 in Row A



Image 6



Image 2

Sustained Investigation Score: **Row A: Score:1** • Row B: Score:2 • Row C: Score:2/3 • Row D: Score:2/3