



2025 AP[®] Drawing 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:

How is cultural knowledge preserved, lost, or transformed across generations, especially within immigrant diasporas? My investigation examines how language, tradition, and identity shift through time, distance, and assimilation. I focus on the gaps and inheritances passed from my Vietnamese grandparents to my mother to me, and examples of cultural resilience and rebirth in Asian communities. Through symbolism, family memory, and portraiture, I explore my own position in this lineage: reaching for a culture I was born into, but never fully given, and asking what I can still recover or pass on.

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

Response:

I explored inherited memory and cultural survival. In pieces 1, 2, 4, 15, I used surreal composition and family imagery to reflect on diasporic disconnection. I repeated porcelain, cranes, and water (2, 4, 7, 14, 15) as evolving symbols of rebirth, migration. Pieces 5, 7, 9 are faith, assimilation, and cultural repression. In 7, 9, 12 I examined revival through performance, fashion, gesture. I revised color, pattern, and expression (1, 2, 4, 12) to convey generational trauma, resilience. I grow from fractured cultural views, to research into resilience, to a final, whole image of my identity.



Image 1

Sustained Investigation

Height: 9

Width: 12

Materials:

Color pencil on paper; layered blending; saturated, green/blue/orange dream-like palette

Process(es):

Explores my place in immigrant history, Vietnamese food, reflects connect to culture through parents

Use of Digital Tool(s): No



Image 2

Sustained Investigation

Height: 30

Width: 9

Materials:

Acrylic, color pencil: contrast subject and eastern vase pattern. Wood shows decay of connection

Process(es):

Kintsugi (pottery-mending), distort self-portrait; tiger represents incomplete culture understanding

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

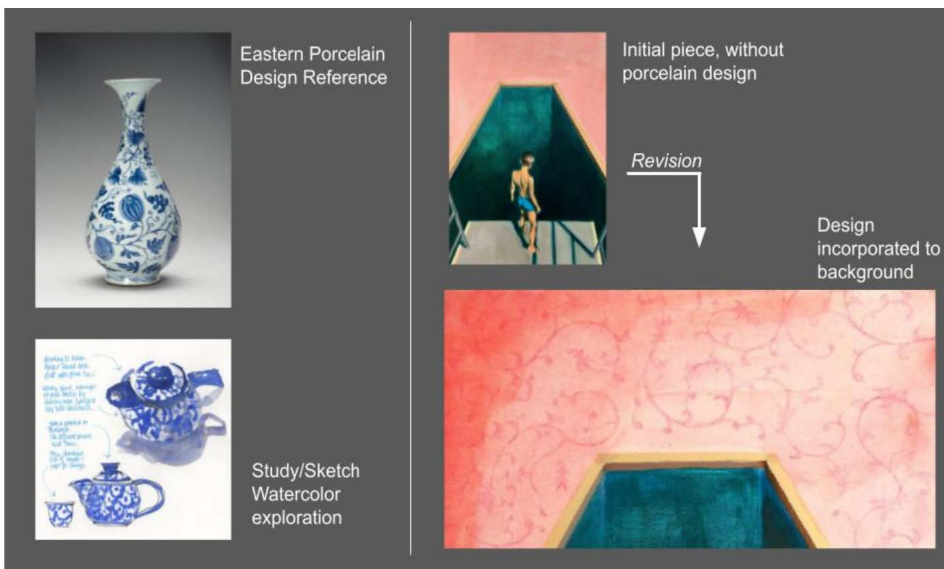


Image 3

Sustained Investigation

Height: N/A

Width: N/A

Materials:

Initial exploration of
pattern/background= cultural
connection; watercolor/water=metaphor
for memory

Process(es):

Revision of piece abt. general fears of
adulthood to piece about fear of culture
w/o parent guidance

Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes

Digital Tool(s) used: Google slides

Citation(s):

<https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/asian-art-week-fine-chinese-ceramics>

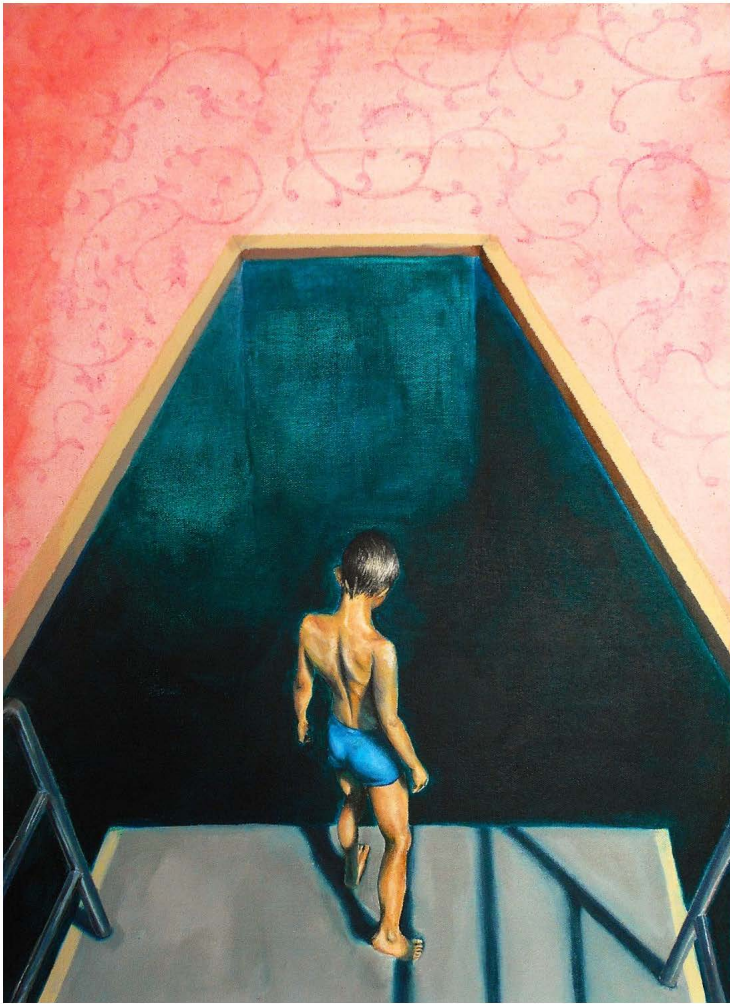


Image 4

Sustained Investigation

Height: 22

Width: 16

Materials:

Acrylic on canvas, gouache for porcelain pattern

Process(es):

Symbolizes hesitation to reclaiming cultural identity without family guidance, reflected by pattern

Use of Digital Tool(s): No



Image 5

Sustained Investigation

Height: 20

Width: 16

Materials:

Gouache and pencil on illustrator board,
native symbols; soft light=contrast
between known, unknown

Process(es):

Portrait of a friend bridging Catholic and
Hawaiian faiths into one spiritual identity,
mantis=faith

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

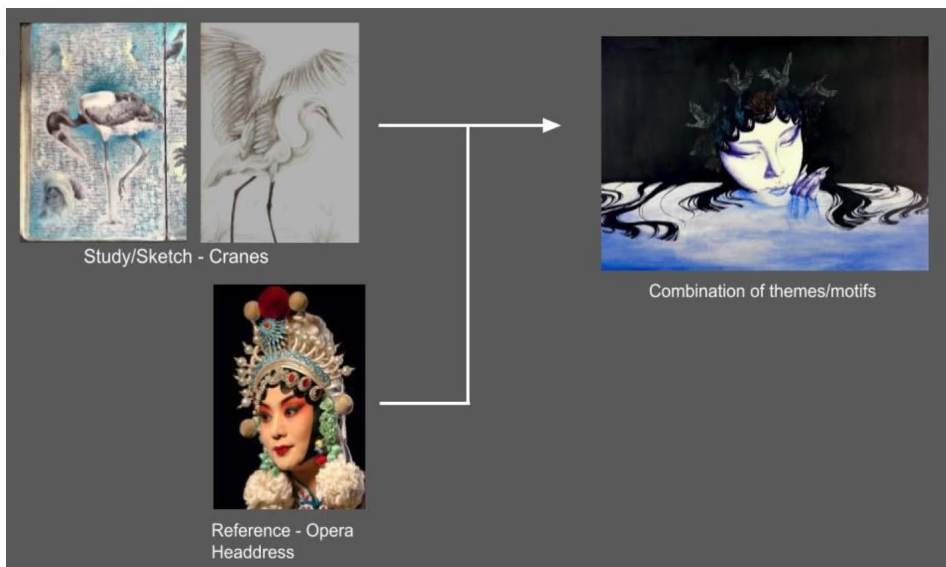


Image 6

Sustained Investigation

Height: N/A

Width: N/A

Materials:

Reflect modernization of chinese opera,
watercolor = revival by new generation;
research on crane,

Process(es):

Explore changing cultural practices in
broader groups, researched Peking
Opera costuming

Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes

Digital Tool(s) used:

Procreate, Google Slides

Citation(s): Photo from Wordpress

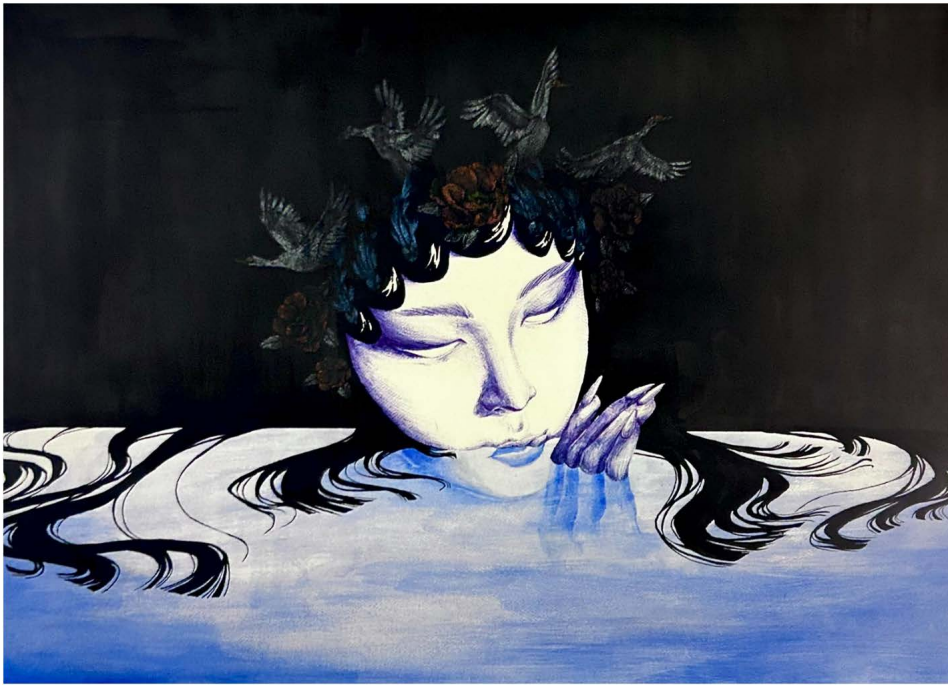


Image 7

Sustained Investigation

Height: 15

Width: 23

Materials:

India ink, traditional medium; contrast with ballpoint pen, modern medium, watercolor

Process(es):

Explored traditional East Asian motifs, chinese opera headdress, crane representing death/rebirth

Use of Digital Tool(s): No



Image 8

Sustained Investigation

Height: N/A

Width: N/A

Materials: Sketches are ballpoint pen

Process(es):

Researched other instances of cultural revival, researched 108 braid tradition, Buddhism connection

Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes

Digital Tool(s) used: Google Slides

Citation(s): References from Vogue



Image 9

Sustained Investigation

Height: 16.5

Width: 13

Materials:

Pencil, watercolor, india ink on
watercolor paper (watercolor=memory,
continuation of tradition)

Process(es):

Further explore cultural revivals, Tibetan
women traditional hairstyles once
repressed, now revived

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

Image 10

Sustained Investigation

Height: 30

Width: 14

Materials:

sketch, watercolor on watercolor paper,
survival of culture from Vietnam to
diaspora

Process(es):

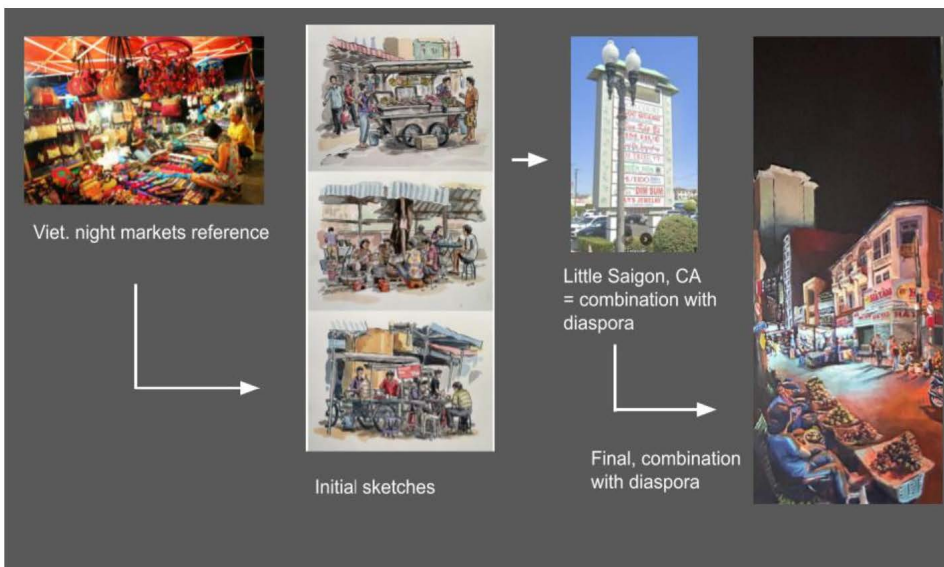
Explores cultural history through food;
interviewed mother, meal prep process
as ancestral memory

Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes

Digital Tool(s) used: Google Slides

Citation(s):

Google Maps, references from Vietnam
IsaVoa and WordPress



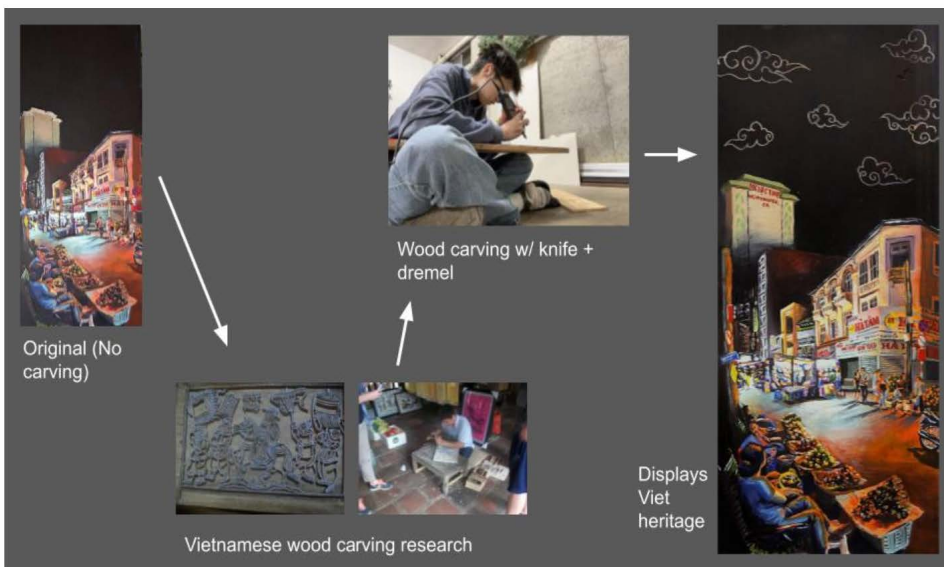


Image 11

Sustained Investigation

Height: N/A

Width: N/A

Materials:

Dremel + carving knife into wood board

Process(es):

Explore + incorporate traditional craft,
research wood carving in Vietnam

Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes

Digital Tool(s) used: Google Slides

Citation(s):

<https://rachelvietnam.wordpress.com/2014/04/03/field-trip-to-dong-ho/>



Image 12

Sustained Investigation

Height: 30

Width: 12

Depth: 1

Materials:

Wood board, acrylic paint, dremel and wood carving for porcelain designs
(displays culture is alive)

Process(es):

Vietnamese diaspora rebuilding traditions in U.S. night markets; culture survives migration

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

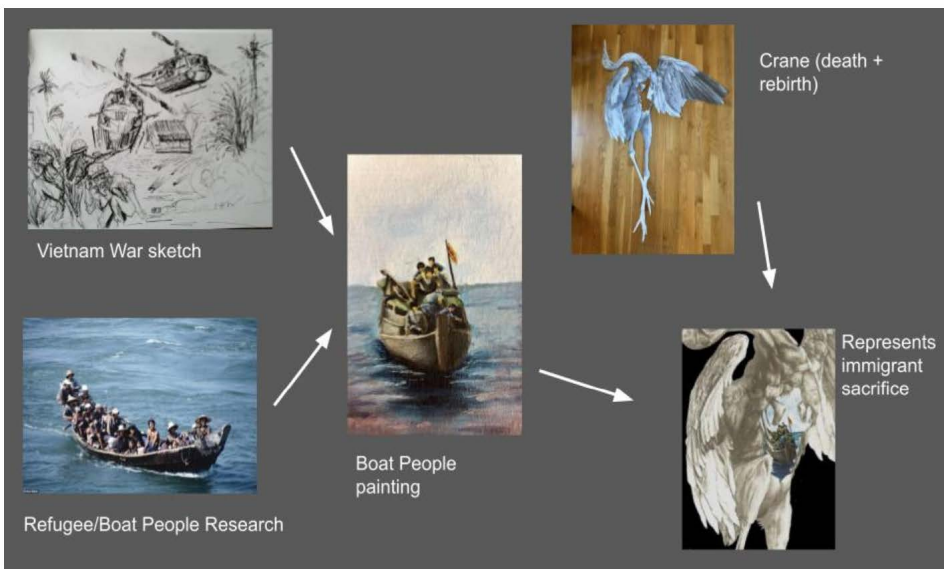


Image 13

Sustained Investigation

Height: N/A

Width: N/A

Materials:

Ink sketch, acrylic boat painting
(grandfather immigrated by boat), pencil
crane drawing frame

Process(es):

Combine two recurring motifs (crane
symbol; immigrant experience)=one
piece, grandfather's sacrifice

Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes

Digital Tool(s) used: Google Slides

Citation(s):

<https://wendemuseum.org/program/lesbi>
rd/

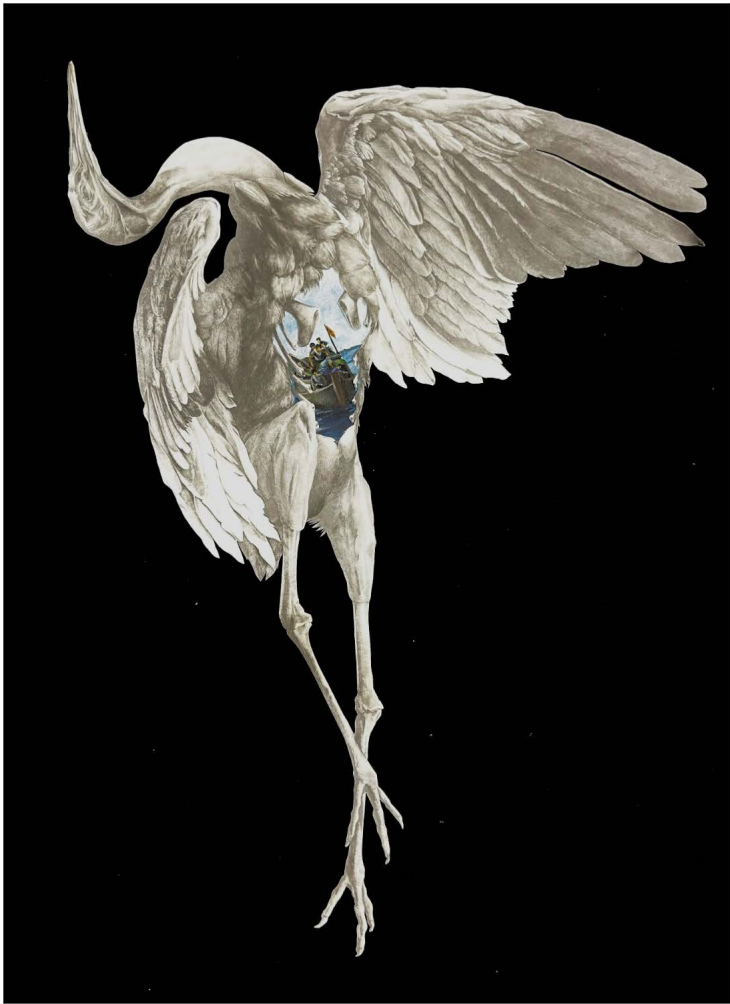


Image 14

Sustained Investigation

Height: 38

Width: 24

Materials:

Pencil, acrylic paint on canvas; dead crane with cutaway ribcage revealing boat people.

Process(es):

Continue crane death/rebirth motif, honors grandfather journey as refugee and how his sacrifice

Use of Digital Tool(s): No



Image 15

Sustained Investigation

Height: 12

Width: 17

Materials:

Watercolor on watercolor paper (figures)

+ illustrator board (wave), portrait of self

+ grandfather

Process(es):

We gaze in opposite directions (me
Vietnam; him America) bridging past and
future; I adorn pattern

Use of Digital Tool(s): No

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 sustained investigation demonstrates clear and consistent visual relationships among materials, processes, and ideas, earning a score of 3 in Row C. The inquiry, “How is cultural knowledge preserved, lost, or transformed across generations, especially within immigrant diasporas?” is supported through the repeated use of symbolic imagery, traditional techniques, and thoughtful revisions. Symbols such as cranes, tigers, porcelain, Kintsugi, Vietnamese clothing, and script appear across the images and contribute to a cohesive and purposeful body of work.

Images 2 and 14 show strong synthesis. In Image 2, a faceless figure repairs a broken ceramic vessel using the Kintsugi method, while a fragmented tiger floats above. These elements visually represent fractured cultural understanding and the idea of resilience. In Image 14, a grayscale crane reveals a colorful scene of refugees through a cut-out chest, combining symbolism, color, and composition to express sacrifice and rebirth within a family migration story.

Visual relationships develop through revision and connection across multiple images. Image 4 expands on porcelain patterns first explored in Image 3, where a reference study and watercolor draft lead to a more complete image showing hesitation about reclaiming cultural identity. Image 12 uses carved wood and acrylic to depict a night market, blending traditional craft with contemporary context to show cultural survival. In Image 15, two figures gaze in opposite directions—toward Vietnam and America—visually expressing a generational bridge between past and future.

Most images show intentional connections between meaning and material. Image 5, while conceptually about blending Catholic and Hawaiian faiths, shows weaker visual integration. The praying mantis and background symbols are less clearly tied to the rest of the investigation. Even so, the image contributes to the broader idea of evolving identity across cultures.

Summary: The images present strong visual connections among materials, processes, and ideas. Through symbolism, revision, and consistent exploration of cultural themes, this body of work successfully demonstrates synthesis, supporting a score of 3 for Row C.



Image 2



Image 14

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