Make: Practice, Experimentation, Revision

AP 2-D Art and Design ▪ Topic 5

AP 2-D Art and Design

What we will cover

1. The sustained investigation
2. Practice experimentation revision
3. Synthesis
4. Demonstrating 2-D skills
5. Composition & craft
6. Developing ideas over time

1 The investigation

The Sustained Investigation

Big Idea 2 is about making. Its heart is the **Sustained Investigation** 持续探究 – a body of work exploring one question in depth over time.

- guided by questions, and it develops as you make
- shows practice, experimentation and revision – not unrelated pieces
- the 2-D section is 15 images plus written evidence

A clear, focused inquiry gives the whole body of work direction and **coherence** 连贯性.

Practice, experimentation and revision

- **Practice** 练习 – repeated work to build skill
- **Experimentation** 实验 – trying new materials and processes to discover
- **Revision** 修改 – changing work after reflection or feedback

Figure studies train sustained observation

These are shown across the body of work, not in one final piece. Evidence of experimentation and revision is exactly what AP readers look for.

Practice builds skill

the body of work grows stronger over time →

AP Art 2-D · Make · practice / experimentation / revision drive development

Practice builds skill, experimentation tries new possibilities, and revision improves the work – repeated across the body of work

2

Synthesis & skills

Synthesis of materials, processes and ideas

Synthesis 综合 means the components are integrated so the whole is more than its parts.

- the material should support the idea
- the process should serve both
- viewers then read one clear message, not separate parts

> Synthesis develops through investigation – trying combinations and keeping what works.

Demonstrating 2-D skills

2-D skills 二维技能 are the skilful use of the elements and the principles to organise a flat surface. Skilful work shows control of value, colour, composition and mark-making across many works.

> The **Selected Works** 精选作品 section is where 2-D skills are judged most directly.

Van Gogh: expressive line, colour and rhythm as 2-D skill

Composition and craft

Craftsmanship 匠艺 is controlled handling of materials and processes. **Composition** applies principles to organise the picture plane.

> Craft should serve the idea – sometimes a rough handling is the right choice.

Hokusai: composition guides the eye across the plane

3

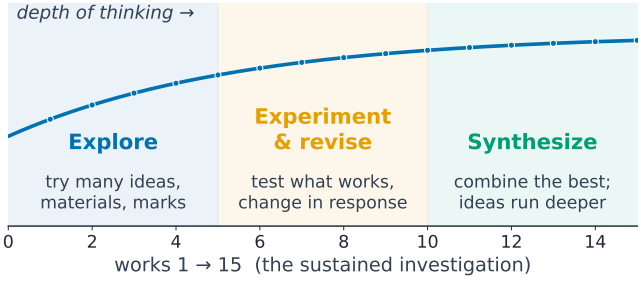
Development

Developing ideas over time

Development is visible when later works build on discoveries in earlier ones – new questions, materials or processes push the investigation forward.

> Not every experiment succeeds – evidence of what did not work is still valuable.

Developing ideas over time, in detail



AP 2-D Art · How a Sustained Investigation develops across the works

the thinking visibly deepens

Development is visible when later works build on discoveries in earlier ones – new questions, materials or processes push the investigation forward.

Worked example – showing development in writing

The Sustained Investigation is scored on evidence of *thinking*

"My first three works used flat colour; after seeing they felt lifeless, I experimented with layered glazes in works 4–6, then in works 7–9 I combined the best of both."

Describing a change *and* the reason for it is how you demonstrate practice, experimentation and revision.

Exam tips

- Build the **sustained investigation** as a connected body of work, not one-offs.
- Show **practice**, **experimentation**, and **revision** – a documented failure still earns credit.
- Push **synthesis** and clear **2-D skills**, and keep **craft** clean to the edges.
- Let each work **develop** from the last, raising the next question.
- Choose materials and processes that embody the guiding question.

4 Recap

Topic 5 – key takeaways

1 One investigation

a connected body of work, not one-offs – 15 images

2 The three actions

practice, experimentation, revision – across the works

3 Synthesis

material, process and idea integrated into one message

4 Development

each work raises the next question; failures count

Check yourself

1. How many images does the Sustained Investigation need?
2. Name the three actions the investigation must show.
3. An experiment failed. Do you still document it?
4. Which section judges 2-D skills most directly?

Answers **1.** 15 **2.** practice, experimentation, revision **3.** yes – it is evidence of thinking **4.** Selected Works