

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



The Sustained Investigation

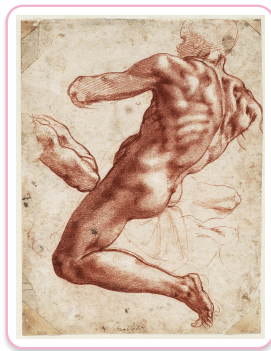
Big Idea 2 is about **making**. Its heart is the **Sustained Investigation** – a body of work exploring **one** question in depth over time.

- 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** .

Practice, experimentation and revision

- **Practice** – repeated work to build **skill**
- **Experimentation** – trying new materials and processes to **discover**
- **Revision** – 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



repeat



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



Synthesis of materials, processes and ideas

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

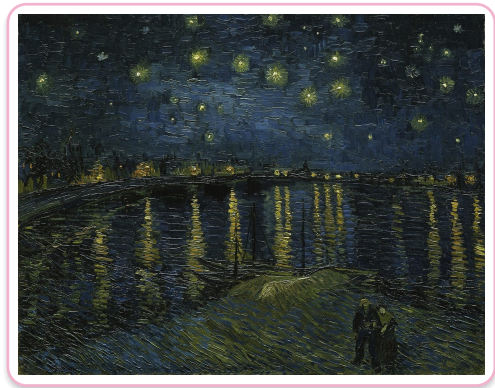
- the material should **support** the idea
- the process should serve **both**
- viewers then read **one clear message**, not separate parts

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

Demonstrating 2-D skills

2-D skills 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** 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 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

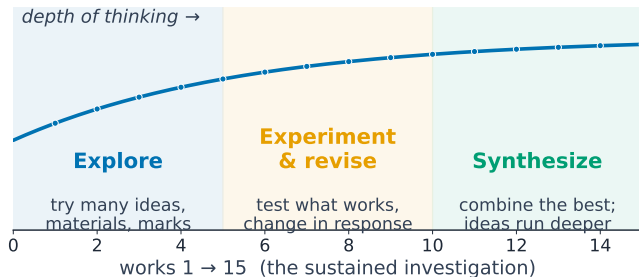


Developing ideas over time

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.



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