

Advanced Photo (AP 2D Design) Anticipatory Assignment

Main Objective: *To process potential ideas as groundwork for the Sustained Investigation section of the AP 2-D Design Portfolio.*

Goal 1: *Begin photographic exploration along several themes, concepts, or ideas.*

Goal 2: *Document your process and thoughts, creating a 'Process Journal'.*

What is a Sustained Investigation?

According to the Collage Board a Sustained Investigation is “a body of work unified by an underlying idea that has visual coherence.” That is to say, it is a collection of images that demonstrates thinking and focus, growth and discovery, and represents both the concept and quality of work. To achieve this you will need to document your thoughts and process as you explore and create images. The concept of an Sustained Investigation may change over time as is natural of any explorative process. Thus, it is important to document your thoughts along the way, particularly outside influences and internal decisions.

Process Journal

- A. Collect things, “Stuff”, that represent your time and experiences. Anything and everything. Receipts, ticket stubs, trinkets, whatever reflects moments of your life.
- B. Journal about your life. How do you spend your time? Write it down. Everything from thoughts, ideas, experiences, travel, emotions, whatever. Just record your life and ideas as you experience it. A helpful practice may be to create a daily ritual to reflect on the day/week. What happened (or didn't) and how did you respond to it. Use a notebook, sketchbook, or a digital equivalent.
- C. Look for inspiration in the work of others. Find 3-4 visual artists that resonate with you and reflect upon their work. Identify the reasons you connect with the selected artist. Is it the subject? The style? The idea? An unusual technique? Some photo artists to look up - Dan Eldon, Ben Goossens, Erik Johansson, Richard Parke-Harrison, Raoul Hausman, Paula Rosa, Maggie Taylor, Jerry Uelsmann, Tim Walker, or others...
- D. Keep your camera close and intentionally create images that represent and reflect excerpts from your Process Journal. Keep track of when, where, and why you make images as related to parts A, B, and C.

Thematic Work

- A. Select themes/concepts to work on prior to the course. Because the range of possibilities is so wide, depth of exploration will be your guide for the number of images you will need to create. Start by brainstorming a list of ideas that could eventually be narrowed down to your “Top 5” ideas. Some topics to consider are listed on the back. Save the list as it is the first item in your Process Journal. Select your “Top 5” that you feel will be challenging to explore.
- B. Create images inline with your “Top 5”.
- C. Organize these images into digital folders on a USB. Be sure to have these images backed up elsewhere.

At the start of next school year you will need...

1. A Process Journal that includes all the “Stuff” representing your time, experiences, and photos. It will also include written reflections upon selected artists.
2. A USB flash drive containing 5 folders representing your “Top 5” thematic work.

Possible Thematic Ideas to Investigate

- An exploration of patterns and designs found in nature and/or culture
- The sense of place in landscape or architectural work
- Self Portraits or Anti-Self Portraits
- Design and execution of an original children's book
- Abstractions developed from cells and other microscopic images
- Reflections
- Natural Lights
- Interpretive portraiture or figure studies
- Long Exposure Experiments
- A personal or family history communicated through symbols, imagery or metaphorical objects only
- Unique Perspectives
- Id vs. Ego
- Power Relationships
- One Flight Down
- Teen Violence
- Bullying
- Any Social/Political Issue
- Anxiety
- The Five Senses
- The Seven Deadly Sins
- The Seven Heavenly Virtues
- The Family Portrait
- Colors I've Never Seen Before
- Ghosts vs. Memories
- Privacy
- Poverty
- The True Self is a Disturbing Character
- Family Matters
- Once...
- Daily Observations
- If Writing did not exist
- Homelessness
- Tensions all around us
- Romancing the Unknown
- Breaking down Barriers
- Objectification

Key Scoring Descriptors as identified by AP Studio Art 2017 Scoring Guidelines

- A. Integration of the Topic of the Sustained Investigation and the Work Presented**
- B. Decision Making and Discovery Through Investigation**
- C. Originality and Innovative Thinking**
- D. Evocative Theme and Engagement of the Viewer**
- E. Understanding and Application of 2-D Design Principles**
- F. Transformation and Growth**
- G. Technical Competence and Skill with Materials and Media**
- H. Appropriation and Student Vision**
- I. Image Quality (for Weak and Poor Sustained Investigations Only)**
- J. Overall Accomplishment**

In applying these descriptors, consider the content, style, and process of the work.

2-D design issues to consider when applying these descriptors may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Unity
Variety
Rhythm
Proportion
Scale

Balance
Emphasis
Contrast
Repetition
Figure/Ground Relationship