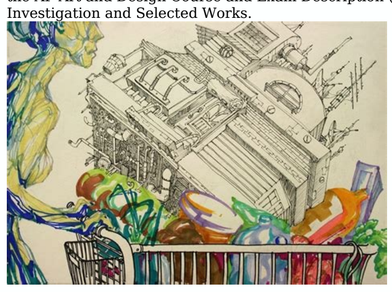


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Score 5 ap studio art portfolio examples

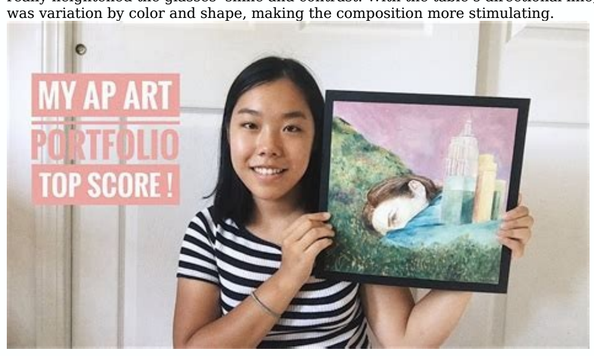
New for 2022-23: Starting this year, all portfolios (2-D, 3-D, and Drawing) will be submitted digitally only. AP 2-D and AP Drawing students will no longer mail their physical work to the AP Program. In May, students submit their Drawing portfolios through the AP Digital Portfolio. For more in-depth information on course content and skills, download the AP Art and Design Course and Exam Description (CED). Encourage your students to visit the AP Drawing student page for portfolio information and portfolio samples. This is the deadline for students to submit portfolios to the AP Program through the AP Digital Portfolio. The AP Art and Design portfolios each consist of two sections: Sustained Investigation and Selected Works.



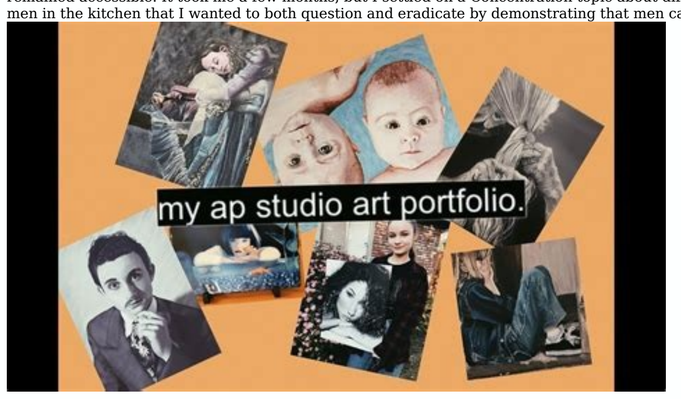
Sustained Investigation—Section 1 15 digital images; some may be details or process images | 60% of portfolio score Students will submit images and writing to document their inquiry-guided investigation through practice, experimentation, and revision: 15 digital images that include works of art and design and process documentation. Typed responses to prompts, providing information about the questions that guided their investigation and how they practiced, experimented, and revised, guided by their questions. Selected Works—Section 2 Digital images of 5 works | 40% of portfolio score Students submit digital images of their work and commentary online to demonstrate skillful synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas: 5 works with commentary identifying the materials, processes, and ideas used. Works may come from the Sustained Investigation section, but they do not have to. View sample portfolios and scoring information from past years. Each exhibit showcases outstanding artwork created by students who submitted portfolios for the AP Art and Design Exams. Last Updated on April 2, 2023 These are a selection of works and commentaries from Ratthamnoon Prakitpong, a graduate from Thai Chinese International School in Bangkok, Thailand. Ratthamnoon was one of sixteen students worldwide to receive a score of 100% for his AP Studio Art Drawing Portfolio in 2015, earning every point possible on each portion of his portfolio. His portfolio scored a perfect six. READ NEXT: How to make an artist website (and why you need one) AP Studio Art: Breadth The Breadth section of the AP Studio Art portfolio is a great chance to brush up on skills and experiment. The Breadth section of the portfolio consists of 12 works of art that demonstrate a mastery of skills whilst showing the artistic range of a student. Here are some examples of what I did to make my work better and more personal: The importance of a good composition The preliminary photographs above show the development of my composition. Changing from indoor light to outdoor light and varying objects as well as sizes assisted me in finding a stronger composition. The glass watercolor painting is based on my final composition.



To improve on the already strong composition, I exaggerated some light reflections and made some colors more saturated. For this class project, we had to work on transparent textures. Having strong painting skills is important; having a strong composition to work from equally so. The first batch of preliminary images I did were indoors with two wine glasses. I felt like the contrast and depth were sufficient, but my teacher, Elizabeth Jendek, asked me to try other kinds of glass to make the composition more interesting. I took loads of photos to find compositions that worked. On the second and third preliminary compositions I presented to my teacher, the light was indoors and the glass didn't have reflective areas. The third composition was better because of the outdoor light, but it still wasn't great. Then my teacher suggested I photograph outside in sunset. Being outside made the still life look more natural and lively; these effects were emphasized by the striped cloth, which increased movement. In addition, the sunset's orange light really heightened the glasses' shine and contrast. With the table's directional line, I got the depth back from the first composition that was lost during the second and third tries. My composition was strong because my focal point was to the side, which follows the rule of thirds: there were size relationships showing depth and perspective. There also was variation by color and shape, making the composition more stimulating.



A strong composition illuminated my skill of painting. Although this is a drawing portfolio, a good composition is as important as your great skill of painting in and of itself. To get the best compositions, I questioned myself; I didn't expect things to work out the very first time, listened to my peers and teacher's advice, and kept working on it until I got the best composition. Revisiting work makes a big difference The difference between my first composition (left) and my final image (right) that I submitted is quite strong. Careful consideration and planning allowed me to rescue some of my hard work and create an image that had more impact. Cutting apart the first portrait was easier once I had a plan. As my skills improved, I found that some of my work looked a little uneven. I had a portrait that I did earlier, which no longer matched the skill level of my other work. Since the face was working fine, the teacher and I discussed the idea of cutting and pasting the head onto a new image. I took a few photos and did a new composition in Photoshop and came up with a new image. Once I was confident with my new idea, I sketched out my new composition on fresh paper, cut out the face and glued it to the new composition. My new version was much better and it evened up my skill level throughout the portfolio in my final submission. I took calculated risks with time and composition. I scheduled my time well and used all the good guidance and technology available to finish this drawing. It turned out to be one of my favorites. Sometimes abandoning a work of art is better than to keep fighting it My shrimp artwork was used as a substitute for an image that wasn't working. Using a common occurrence in my life gave this painting a natural feeling and allowed me to incorporate my culture. While I was doing my portfolio, I had a few compositions that needed reworking – one in particular really just wasn't working out. I tried adding more to the composition; I did loads of preliminary sketches, and finally decided I was getting nowhere. After discussing and problem-solving with my teacher, we decided it would be better to start a fresh new artwork based off an alternative lesson. It's true that it was hard to let go of so much work already done, and the new project was equally challenging, but it worked much better than if I would've continued beating a dead horse. To compensate for lost efforts, I tried to add my own personal touches to this art piece. Even though the green plate can be seen just as a nice contrast to the orange shrimp, it's also the same plate my family uses when we go out picnicking. We usually lay old newspapers underneath our seafood so that mess won't spill anywhere. I took direct inspiration from that, and glued newspaper onto my work for texture; to finish, I copied Thai letters onto the composition. By adding my own personal touch, this simple project became more unique, and much richer. They were my shrimp, and this is how I eat them. Look for inspiration around you, in unlikely places The courier from Phu Kradueng. This image, based off a hiking trip, embodies a traditional aspect of my culture. Using the train tickets I used for the trip in order to add texture to the composition increased the personal meaning of my work. Friends and I went on a hiking trip to Phu Kradueng. In this area of Thailand, automated services aren't available, so local couriers offer their services by carrying huge loads to the top of the mountain area. Watching these men lift such enormous amounts was inspirational, and I took this great photo capturing their strength and beauty – it reminded me of Greek Gods. Although this wasn't a class project, I painted it on my own anyway for two reasons: the tourist sight was so unique, and it was also an important memory for my friends and I. To further the personal nature of this image, I glued my train ticket to the composition to further add to that feeling of a snap in time, fully enclosing the character of the place and to add additional texture. AP Studio Art: Concentration Concentration is a section where I focused on a specific topic and many art skills. It's very intense and pressuring. Here I commented on a few skills that I focused on to make my Concentration more successful: Picking the right Concentration topic is incredibly important Since the Concentration section needed twelve pieces based on a single topic, my teacher advised the class to look long and hard for a topic that had room for development and exploration, yet remained accessible. It took me a few months, but I settled on a Concentration topic about different perspective-based portraits in the kitchen. Thematically, I picked this topic because I was already a hobbyist cook, and wanted to combine and explore the two things that I liked – art and cooking. I feel, in my country, there's a cultural stigma about men in the kitchen that I wanted to both question and eradicate by demonstrating that men can cook as well as anyone else.



I decided to pursue portraits and create variation using different perspectives and color schemes. For my take on perspective, I used a selfie stick to find new perspective and angles. Where my hands were holding the camera, I superimposed kitchen tools – spoons, forks, spatulas – to hide the selfie stick in the drawing.
As for the kitchen itself, I found inspiration from my personal exploration in using new kitchen tools, like cooking noodles for my lunch box or eggs in the morning. These were additional considerations I made when selecting this topic: My exploration was not only visual, but personal too. It showed my development as an artist and a thinker.



I only had around 5 ideas at the beginning because I wasn't familiar with the kitchen, but as I personally explored the kitchen more, inspiration came naturally. I cared about my topic. I was exploring my hobby and my culture.
If I wasn't passionate about my topic, by the 8th or 9th image I would've hated my work. Artwork without passion is apparent.
It was visually appealing. Even though my personal story and passion were there, my Concentration wouldn't be as strong if I did not play with perspectives and color schemes. I was really experimental about it too, and when the compositions didn't work, they still served as a springboard for the next idea. My topic was versatile enough to have twelve different ideas united under it. The kitchen has interesting tools, objects and angles I could use to experiment. That kept my idea fresh, yet united. My topic was flexible. Choosing my kitchen as a basis for my topic might seem simple, but it provided enough room for experimenting with techniques that weren't necessarily kitchen-related, like superimposition or collage. My topic was accessible. I could go back easily to the kitchen and photograph some more, or look for other inspirations. This made a huge difference when some compositions needed more reworking than others. (If you are struggling to come up with your own AP Studio Art Concentration ideas, please read: Art Project Ideas: a guide to subject matter selection). Here are some examples of how I problem-solved composition concerns, increased depth, and manipulated my imagery. I experimented with depth These comparison photos show the difference of superimposing an additional shelf. The additional shelf significantly increased the depth and movement of the composition.
I increased depth with my selfie stick; it gave me more options with regards to angles. The first composition in which I used the stick didn't quite capture what I wanted, so I added an additional shelf at the top of my composition to increase depth. I used a fisheye lens to make the composition more interesting, and changed the hands that held the selfie stick altogether.
I also manipulated color from the originally bland white into a triad color scheme to make it more visually dynamic. Combining multiple skills enriches your art Experimenting with viewpoint and mixed media.
I had already used bird's eye and worm's eye of view, so I had to come up with something unique for this one. When I looked at the oven, I remembered when my mother baked and thought of her delighted face when she pulled out her baking. So I decided to render some freshly baked food and the serenity on someone's face when they first see the food. This gave my image more personal meaning. I also added pieces of a hand written recipe for texture and to increase movement. Additionally, I superimposed a meat fork where my selfie stick had been. Taken from a worm's eye view, I used some of the transparent painting techniques I learned during my Breadth section to give the drawers more realism.
I thought allowing the viewer to see what was inside the drawers made the composition more interesting than opaque shelving. I also added a plaid pattern to my shirt so the texture would make the composition more dynamic. I utilized a different approach from the oven painting. Here I didn't modify much of my old techniques; instead, I combined many of them in the new painting.
This approach was a great solution for when I couldn't come up with new ideas or find a fun way to modify them. Final thoughts In hindsight, I made many gutsy moves, and I failed – a lot. However, I succeeded a lot too. It really came down to commitment, to practice, to having many chances to fail and, in turn, to succeed. I made more than 24 art pieces, but I got to choose the ones I was actually proud of for a trimmed version of my portfolio. Most importantly, I'm just another person, and what I did may not apply to you. Listen to the people who know you, who are close to you – your teacher, your peers, and yourself. There's no point in making anything unless you will be proud of it. That means sometimes an unyielding stance, or sometimes blind faith in advice. Altering compositions by superimposing and changing up my color scheme gave each piece its own mood. This AP Studio Art Drawing course was taught by Elizabeth Jendek. Work from her students is used by Alison Youkilis, an AP Art teacher trainer, to teach other educators around the world. You can see additional outstanding artworks by Elizabeth Jendek's students in the article: 50+ Still life drawing ideas for art students. This high school art project was shared with our audience so that other students may benefit from the ideas, techniques and approaches used. We celebrate the effort and achievement of high school students and Art Departments around the world.
If you would like to share your own art project (or that of your students), please read our submission guidelines. Creating an Advanced Placement (AP) art portfolio can be a challenging task for high school students. But it's also an exciting opportunity to show off their talents. It requires creativity, planning, and a thorough understanding of the requirements set by the College Board. AP art students are typically passionate about art and design, but they're also often overwhelmed by the portfolio's complexity.
Read on to learn more about the College Board's current portfolio requirements and scoring criterion, as well as to get tips for creating portfolios, examples of high-scoring AP art portfolios, and insight from the students who created them. AP Art and Design Portfolio Requirements The current version of the Advanced Placement (AP) Art and Design Portfolio consists of two sections: Sustained Investigation (60 percent of total score) and Selected Works (40 percent of total score). While the previous version required 24 artworks, the current one requires just 15. Until recently, there was a breadth section that demonstrated student range and provided an opportunity for working with different mediums. The intent with Sustained Investigation is to demonstrate practice, experimentation, and revision through a number of images that seek to answer an inquiry chosen by the artist. While students can submit solely finished artworks, they can also include revision and process images as seen with many AP art portfolio examples. The Selected Works portion consists of five high-quality artworks. There is also a writing requirement, which includes an artist statement of 1,200 words split into two 600-word sections. Additionally, artists have 100 characters to explain the process behind each work and 100 characters to explain the materials. While there have been changes to the AP art portfolio requirements in recent years, older, successful portfolios still provide valuable insights. AP Art and Design Portfolio Scoring The portfolio, which can be 2D, 3D, or drawing, is submitted digitally and scored from 6 (excellent) to 1 (poor). It provides you the opportunity to earn college credit while showing off your talent. The collection of finished artworks and images should demonstrate your grasp of design and art concepts while also showing the full range of your abilities. Your portfolio should definitely show relationships between materials, processes, and ideas. It will also include written evidence of these things. Check out our tips and AP art portfolio examples before getting started on yours.
Top Tips for Creating an AP Art Portfolio Don't be afraid to revisit artworks. Pay careful attention to composition.
Don't be afraid to abandon an artwork if it isn't working. Refer to apstudents.collegeboard.org/art-designprogram for the most up-to-date information. Show your development as an artist. Develop your sustained investigation and theme. Take some risks. Examples From Successful Portfolios 1. A Perfect 6 A perfect score on the AP Art Portfolio is very rare but not completely unattainable. Although difficult, student Ratthamnoon Prakitpong earned every possible point in the different sections of his drawing portfolio. Prakitpong gives loads of good advice while providing examples, including before-and-after examples of different artwork. He also recommends drawing inspiration from unexpected places. Learn more: Student Art Guide 2. A 3D Compilation This video compilation shows a wide variety of finished 3D artworks but also includes photos showing Cyan D'Anjou's process. D'Anjou said that most of the concentration section of her portfolio was developed during her final year of high school.
In today's portfolio, this would be akin to the Sustained Investigation portion. 3. A Strong Theme Once student Alina Rhoadarmer chose childhood memories as the theme for her AP art portfolio, she was able to set out creating a wide variety of artworks that fit that topic. Rhoadarmer explained, "I was constantly developing and redeveloping my question and reinterpreting my topic to create new art pieces." Learn more: MVHS Oracle 4. Digital Painting Concentration This is an example of a 2D AP art portfolio with more of a commercial focus since it centers around video game concepts and design. Although there are a wide variety of platforms for digital painting, this particular artist used Photoshop.
The artist created seven villains and seven levels but made sure to keep the style and environment cohesive. The portfolio expresses the story and concept of the video game while also demonstrating the artist's range and ability. Learn more: The Website of Mr. Whipple 5. Three Portfolios, One Artist While a video compilation of an AP art portfolio is helpful, a video including three is even better! First, we see artworks from a 2D portfolio submitted in 2015 during their junior year. Next, we see a portfolio for drawing from the artist's senior year. Finally, we see their 2D portfolio from their senior year. Although difficult to do, all three of these portfolios scored a 5 (strong). 6. Artworks With Explanations Artist/student Conan Gray does a nice job showing his artwork while providing his rationale for each image. Since a still-life can fall flat, Gray recommends incorporating meaning and shares an example of his own still-life that succeeds at that. Examples of Sustained Investigation 7.
Theme: Femininity and Masculinity Through the 20th Century This Sustained Investigation is particularly effective since it not only explores gender but the expression of gender throughout different moments in the 20th century. Learn more: Elizabeth Saitta 8. Theme: Negative and Positive Effects of Social Media on Self-Esteem This artist explored the negative and positive consequences of social media on self-esteem. They used color to express positive effects while a lack of color clearly indicates the negative consequences. Learn more: Elizabeth Saitta 9. Theme: Feeling Comfortable vs. Uncomfortable Looking at artworks on a given theme is helpful, but having the artist explain their processes and ideas is even better. Artist Karina Singh does a wonderful job of explaining her use of composition and materials to explore her topic of being comfortable versus being uncomfortable. Her work shows a thorough exploration of a theme with ideas ranging from female sexuality, COVID, and family to environmental waste. 10. Theme: Nonverbal Communication Artist/student Sophie Miller chose nonverbal communication for her Sustained Investigation so she could draw "with elevated contrast." According to the artist, at least half of her drawing time was done during a free period or at home. Her theme is made undeniably clear through her drawings of people with intense facial expressions and hand gestures. Learn more: The Dial 11.
Theme: Phobias This artist chose a topic that certainly allowed for endless possibilities of subject matter. He showed his range by creating images that represented different phobias while utilizing different materials and mediums. Learn more: Imgur Other Ideas for Sustained Investigation Abandonment of people and places Evolution of illness Human influence on the environment Effects of social media Reflections on various surfaces Depression Close-ups (food, body parts, etc.) Effect of corporate advertising on human psyche Painting friends in different historical eras Voyeurism Modernization of famous fairy tales Wood cuts based on Japanese printmaking Found-object sculptures Exploration of clothing across cultures Road trips Examples of Low-Scoring Portfolios Seeing examples of high-scoring and well flushed-out portfolios is helpful, but it can also be useful to see examples of what not to do. The AP College Board posts examples of low-scoring portfolios while including the rationale behind the scores. See below for some examples of portfolios that only scored a 1. You can also find examples of complete portfolios that scored high on the 2022 portfolio exam as well as more scoring commentaries at the AP Central College Board website. Do you have more great AP art portfolio examples? Share in the comments below. Interested in being an art teacher? Check out Teaching Portfolio Examples That Will Get You Hired.
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