Sustained Investigation Proposal

By Hannah Cone
Plan A
“Through the eyes of a child”

Plan B
“Abstracted Natural Observations”

Plan C
“How does ‘HOME’ define us?”
Plan A: Through the Eyes of a Child

The central idea of my sustained investigation is my baby daughter. I want to create a series of work about her: how she interacts with the world and how she grows and develops. I am interested in seeing how she grows over time along with my work about her.

My sustained investigation will start by focusing on my daughter’s development—from crawling to standing, as well as other activities. I am interested in exploring dynamic compositions showing her movements. I will also create portraits of her, and my focus might shift around in how closely I examine my subject and how much background/setting I include in each piece.
Mind Map - Plan A

- Baby
  - Adorable
  - Teeth
- Teeth
- Rolling
- Standing
- Crawling
- Action lines, Futurism
- Hopes and dreams for the future
- Innocence
- Tough parts
- Sleep, crying
- Expressions
- Sounds
- Keys
- Observations
  - The World through her eyes
- Insomnia
- Swatching
Sketches - Plan A
Photo References - Plan A
Artistic Inspirations - Plan A

Mary Cassatt - American Impressionist painter, focused mainly on women and children. Her loose brushwork and candid poses of her subjects were revolutionary for her time. Her painterly style really inspires me and the way she renders skin tones is amazing.

Alice Neel - American portrait artist. Though Alice Neel is not mainly known for her portraits of children, her loose stylization of her figures and the raw, emotional quality of her figures really stand out. I hope I can be bold enough to use a loose, illustrative style like her and be successful in doing so.
Natalia Sergeevna - Futurist painter.
The futurists were concerned with depicting motion through painting. These types of dynamic flowing lines and forms are a potential style I would like to try, especially when depicting motor development such as walking, crawling, rolling, moving arms, etc.
Plan B: Insects and nature studies

The central idea of my sustained investigation (plan B) surrounds natural observations. I plan to create semi-abstracted compositions with insects and other arthropods as my subjects. I want to mix realism with abstraction and explore similar body structures of different animals.
Mind Map - Plan B

- Arthropods
  - Body types
  - Structures

- Fauna
  - Wasps
  - Cicadas
  - Birds
  - Robins
  - Roadrunners

- Natural observations
  - Walking along the ditch
  - Cottonwood trees
  - Fallen leaves

- Weeds
  - Water
  - Leaves
  - Rustling
  - Smell
  - Dirt
  - Water plants

- Allergies

- Dusty water plants

- Too many "natural" spaces

- Too many "natural" elements

- House plants are too messy
Sketches - Plan B

- Cicada (closely observed, anatomical sketch) vs. crowded, broken into pieces (repetition)
  - Cardboard backings, rough feeling

- Cottonwood leaf
  - Could show process of decay, different colors

- House plants vs. chaotic (natural vs. manicured)
Artistic Inspirations - Plan B

Edward Donovan - British illustrator
Plan C: How “Home” Defines Identity

The central idea of my sustained investigation (plan C) explores how our sense of “home” helps shape our identities. Our relationship to what we consider our “home” changes over time, whether or not we physically change our homes. Large life events such as moving to college also shape our identities.

I plan on using maps and other symbols of travel along with human figures to show how they are shaped by their environments and homes. The artist Matthew Cusick is a big inspiration to me for this series.
Mind Map - Plan C

- Trauma
- Phobias
- Proximity to friends
- Childhood home(s)
- Pleasant memories
- Earliest memories
- How do our homes define us?
- Moving
- Adolescent home(s)
- New environment
- School
- Hangout spots
- Friend group
- Choosing to move
- College
- Study spots
- Independence
- Dorm life
- New friends
- Cooking
- Making a family
- Home(s)
- New countries
- New cultures
- Continuing the cycle
Sketches - Plan C

I plan on using maps and other symbols of travel along with human figures to show how they are shaped by their environments and homes. These sketches show a sense of loss or missing home after a move.
Matthew Cusick
https://www.mattcusick.com/
Matt Cusick constructs his work using layers of paper such as maps. He painstakingly cuts different colored portions of his source papers to fit with the designs he creates. I find his portraits hauntingly beautiful and they seem to directly relate to the theme of identity and home.

Takahiro Iwasaki
Though his work usually involves large-scale installations, this small series of topographically excavated rolls of duct tape show a beautiful contrast of subject and material. This type of process seems very meditative to me. I would love to include some three dimensionality in my work.
Thanks!

Any questions?

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