

Course Handbook  
Samples with commentary

**Cambridge International AS & A Level  
Art & Design (9479)**

For examination from 2020



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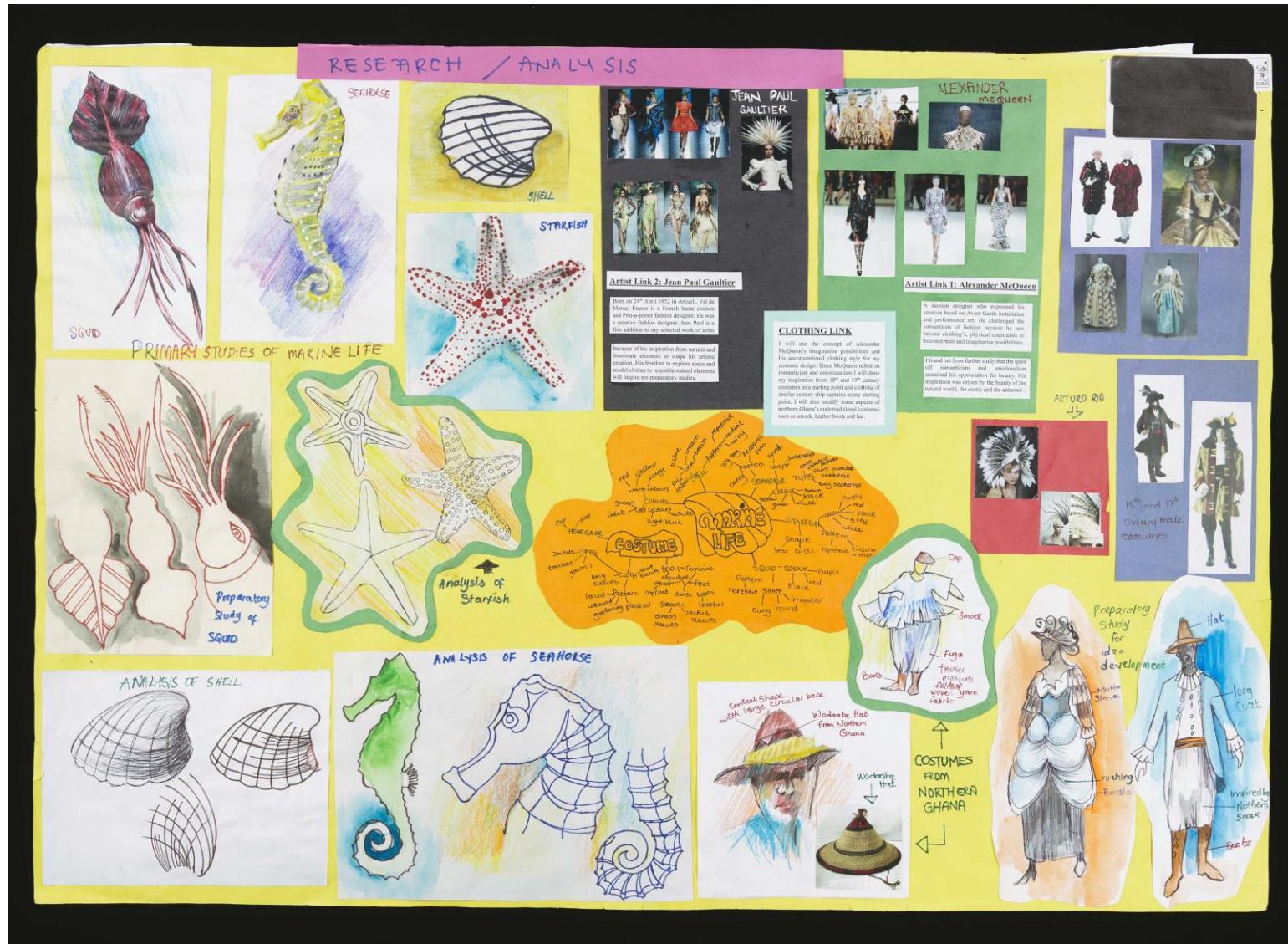
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The samples in this booklet represent a range of levels in each of the three components above. Comments are provided for each portfolio to help you understand how the mark scheme is applied. This booklet accompanies the Cambridge International AS & A Level in Art & Design (9479) Course Handbook.

These images are designed to be viewed on screen to allow for the use of the zoom facility. If you wish to print them out, they are of sufficient resolution to be printed on A3 sheets.

## Component 1: Coursework



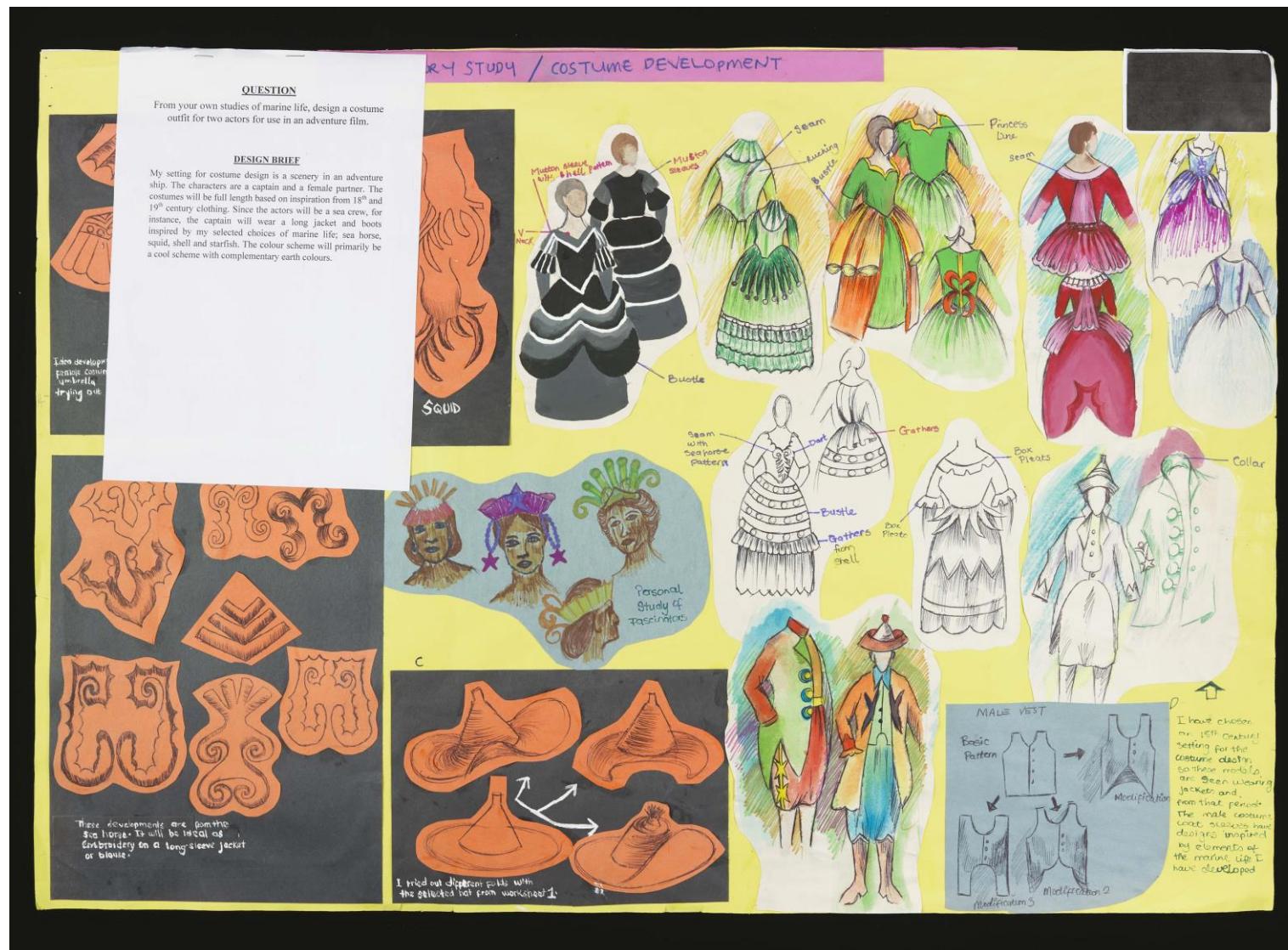
## Low level response

## Portfolio

Some satisfactory initial observations into the investigation of the chosen theme.

The drawing studies show understanding, but they lack depth of study.

There is limited exploration with media which could have helped to realise the intentions more fully.



## Low level response

## Portfolio

Recording ideas, observations and insights at first hand would have helped to focus and inform personal interests.



## Low level response

### Portfolio

The development of ideas comes from a limited range of relevant sources.

There is a limited critical understanding in the analysis of sources.

## Low level response

### Portfolio

There is some evidence of connections between visual and written elements as appropriate.

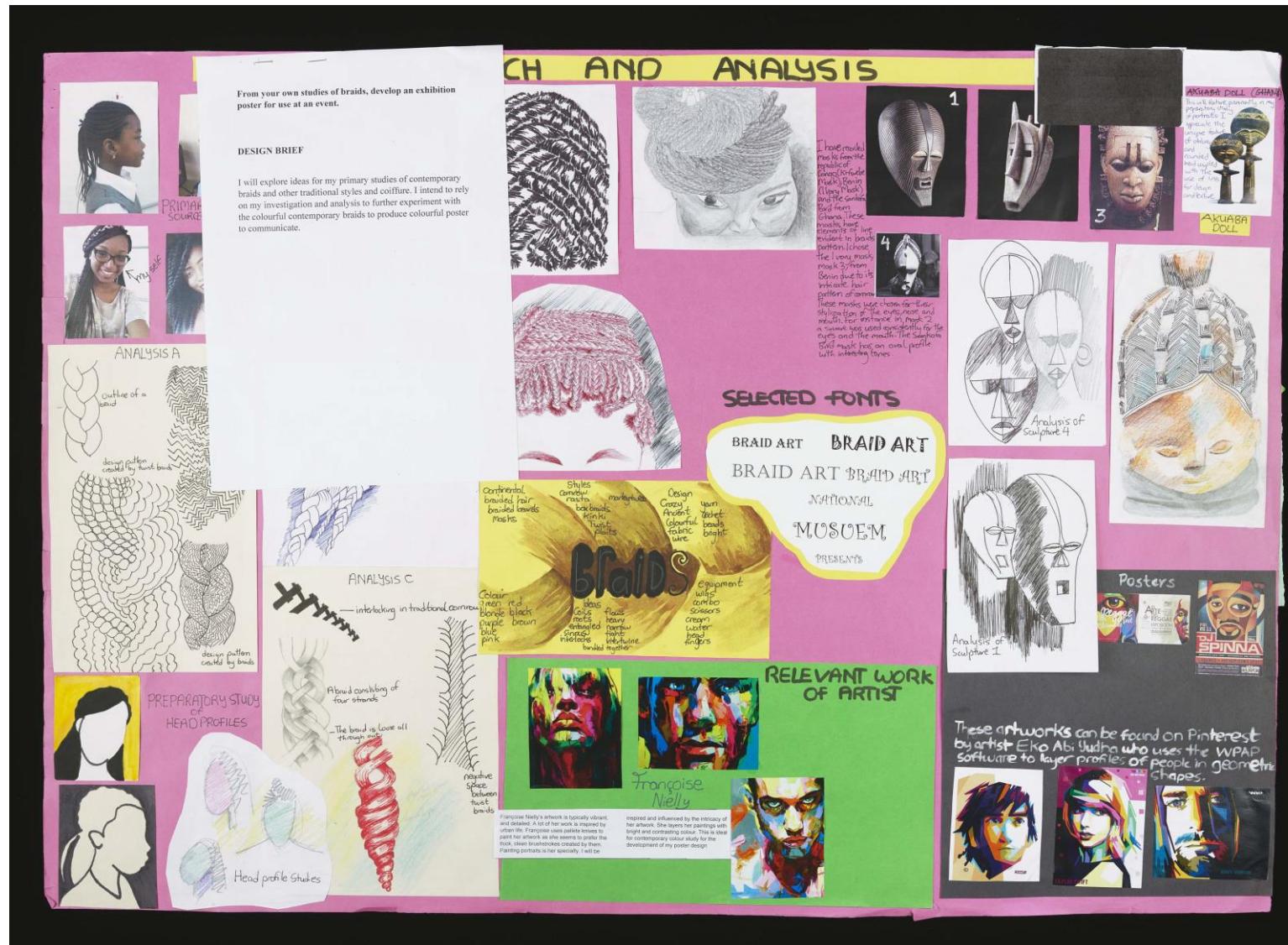




## Low level response

### Final outcome

The final outcome shows some evidence of personal and coherent realisation of intentions.



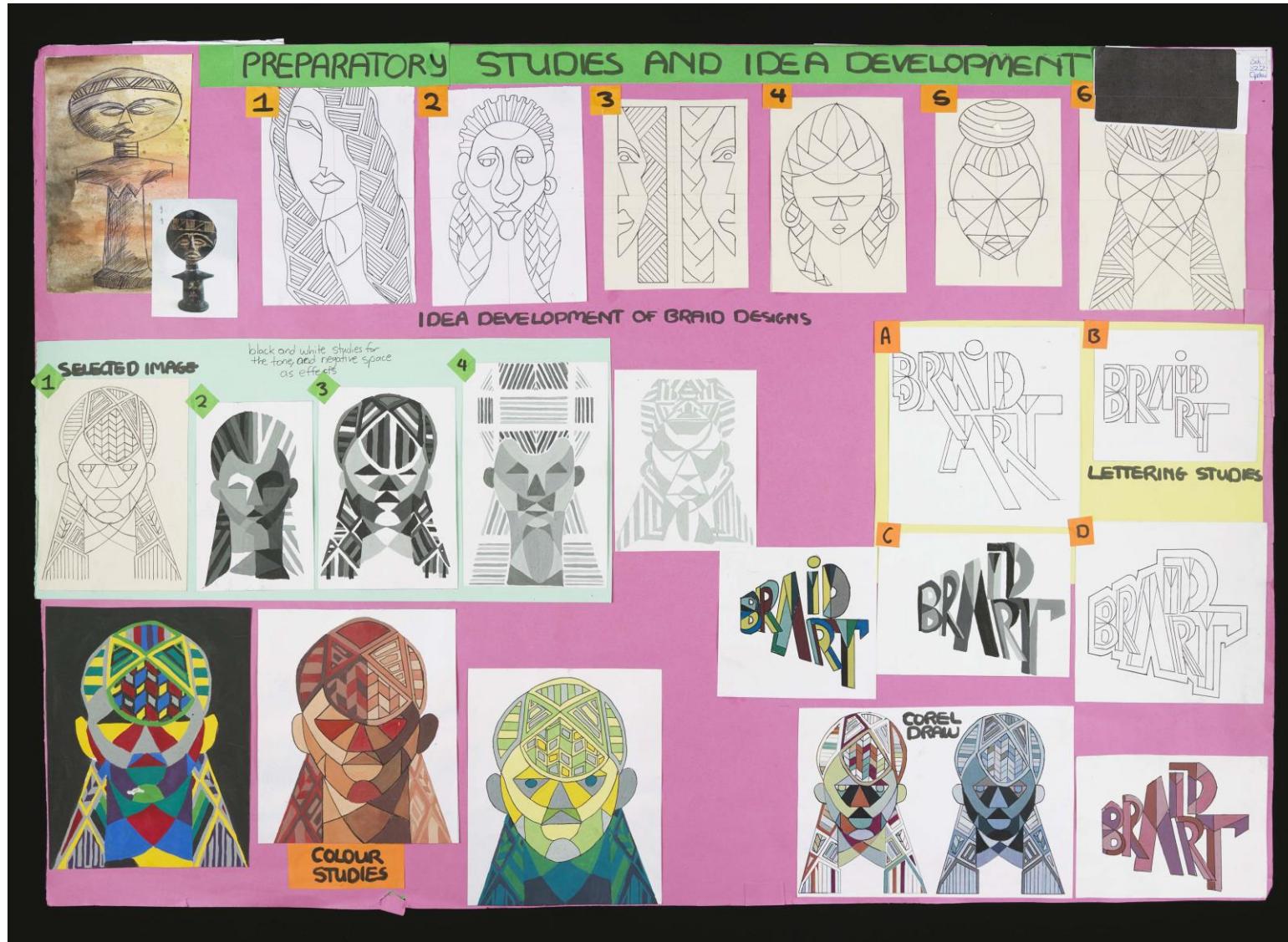
## Mid-level response

### Portfolio

The work shows a set of studies indicating first hand observations and photographs taken by the learner.

The investigations and development of ideas are successfully communicated within the context of the research.

These are presented in a coherent manner and displayed with clear intention.



## Mid-level response

### Portfolio

The analysis of the inspiration is clear and concise. The different media shows clear influences within the artist references and cultural analysis.

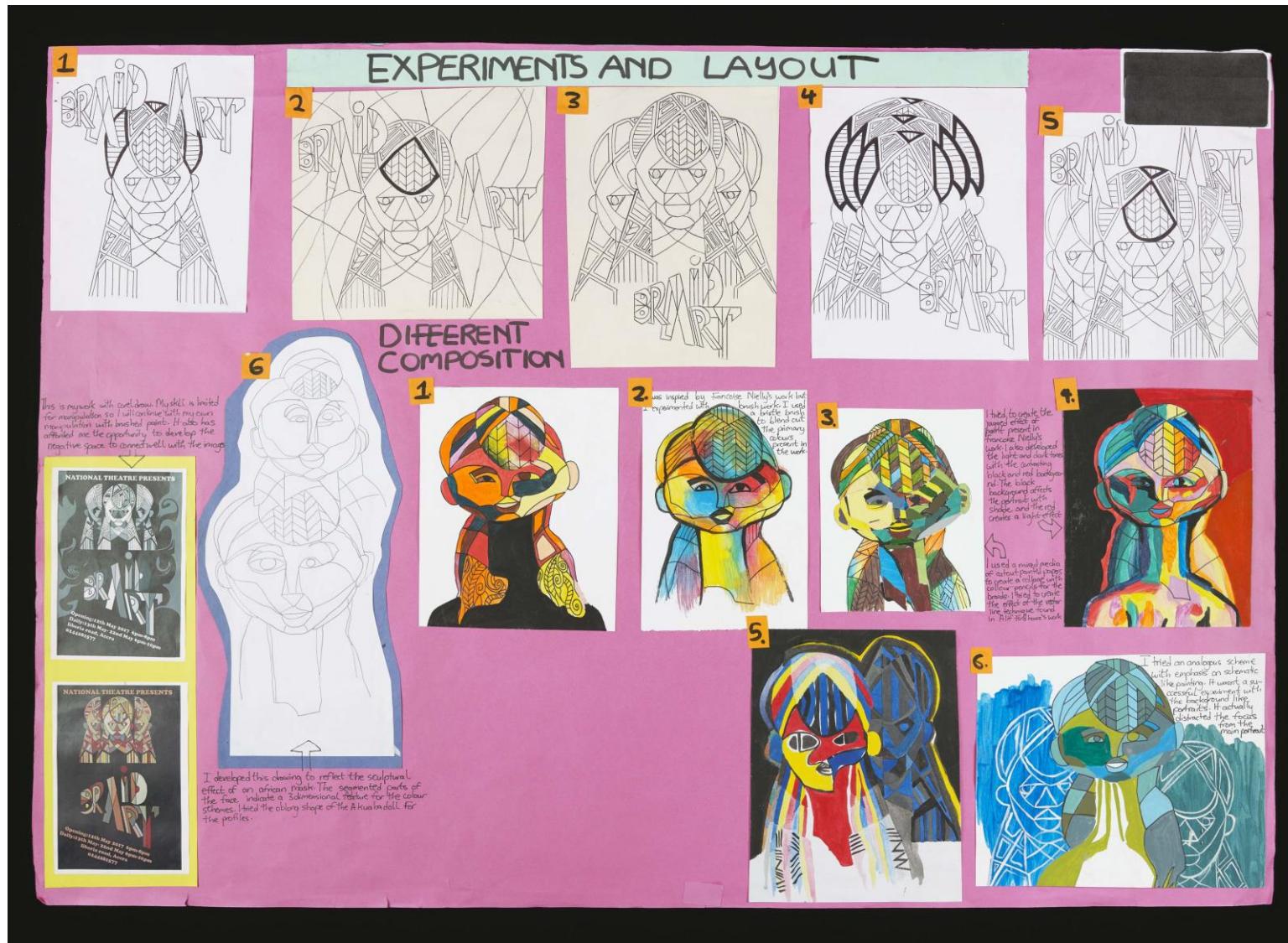
## Mid-level response

## Portfolio

The connection between the hair braids, masks and artists is steadily realised into a more stylised compositional approach.

Understanding of the process is consistent and ideas are revised and refined as the project develops, showing confident realisation.

The work indicates experimentation with a range of appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.





## Mid-level response

### Portfolio

The typographical element could have been further developed with greater experimentation. The aesthetic quality of the final outcome would have benefitted from more consideration and analysis of the text and image.



## Mid-level response

### Final outcome

The final outcome is clearly realised and is a coherent combination of initial source materials and research.

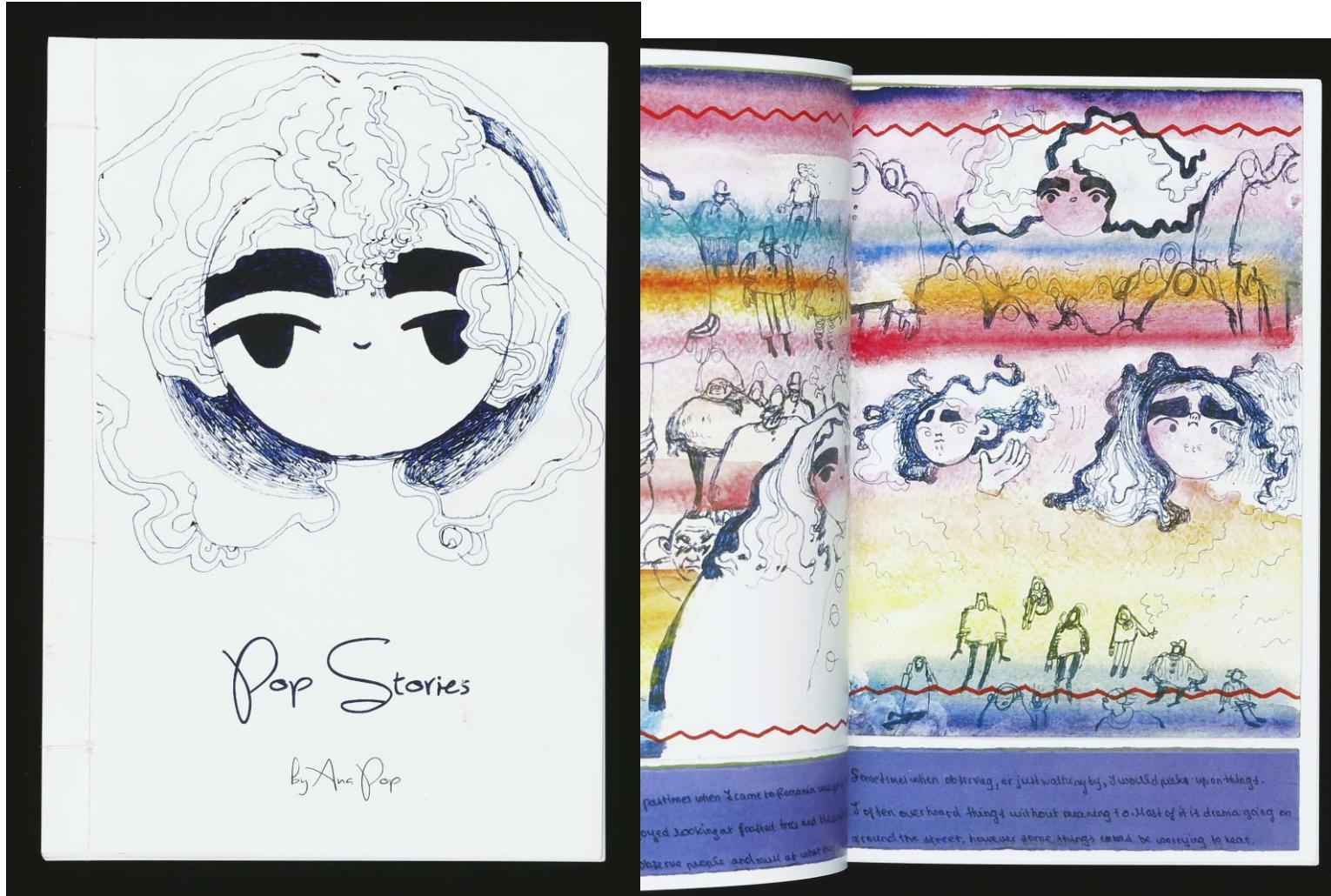
There is evidence of purposeful intention and evolution of ideas.

However, the analysis of the hair braids becomes less highlighted in the final development stages.

More detailed observational studies would have enabled the theme to translate more fully.

Some of the compositional and colour studies were stronger than the final, and if nurtured, could have elevated the impact of the final outcome.

More studies of artists such as Toulouse-Lautrec and Picasso would have informed the outcome to a greater level of achievement.



## High level response

### Portfolio

The work shown here is a combination of folklore and contemporary stimuli.



## High level response

### Portfolio

The work displays strong personal interpretation and cultural connections.

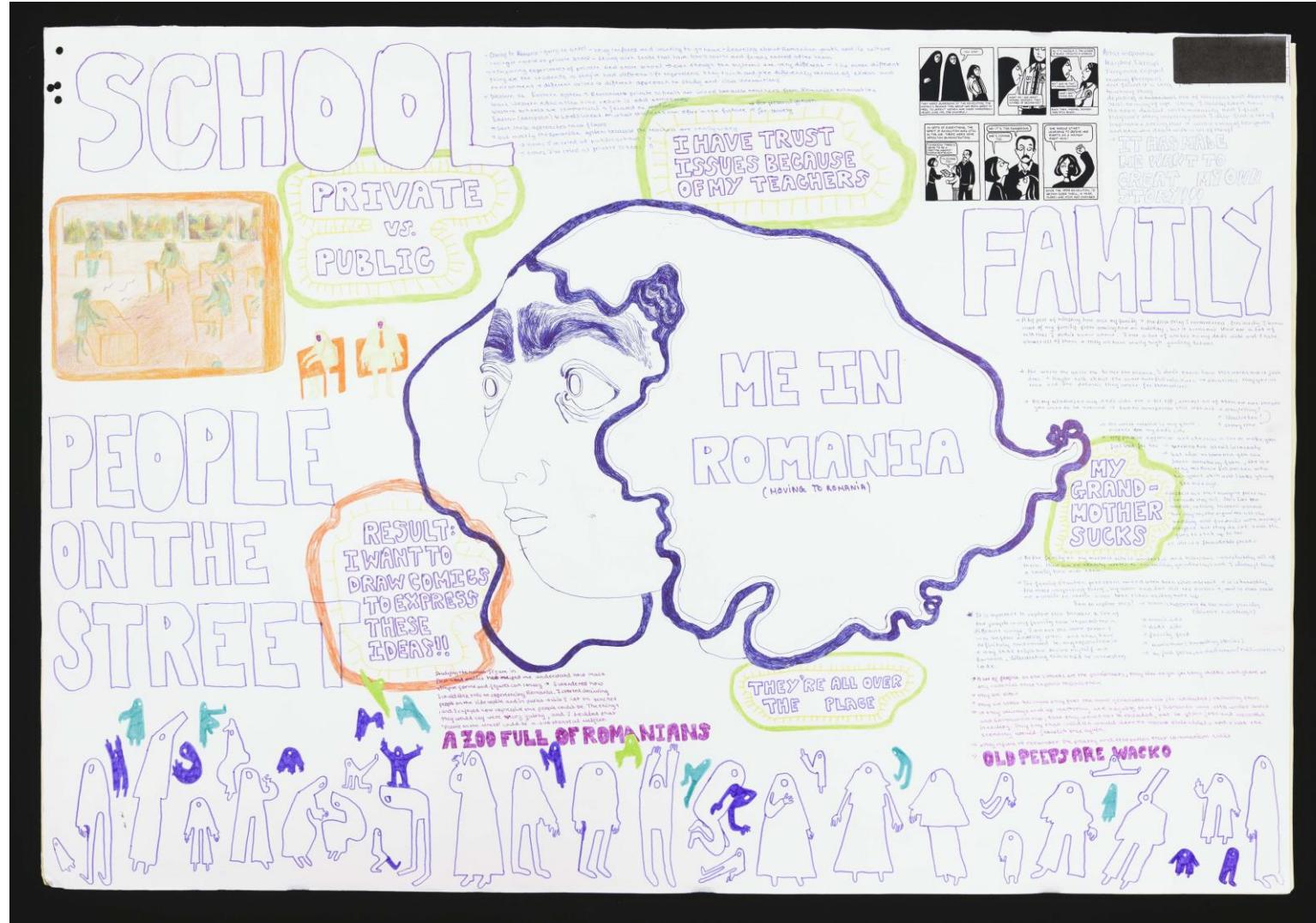
These are reviewed and refined within the context of the theme to a highly accomplished level.



## High level response

### Portfolio

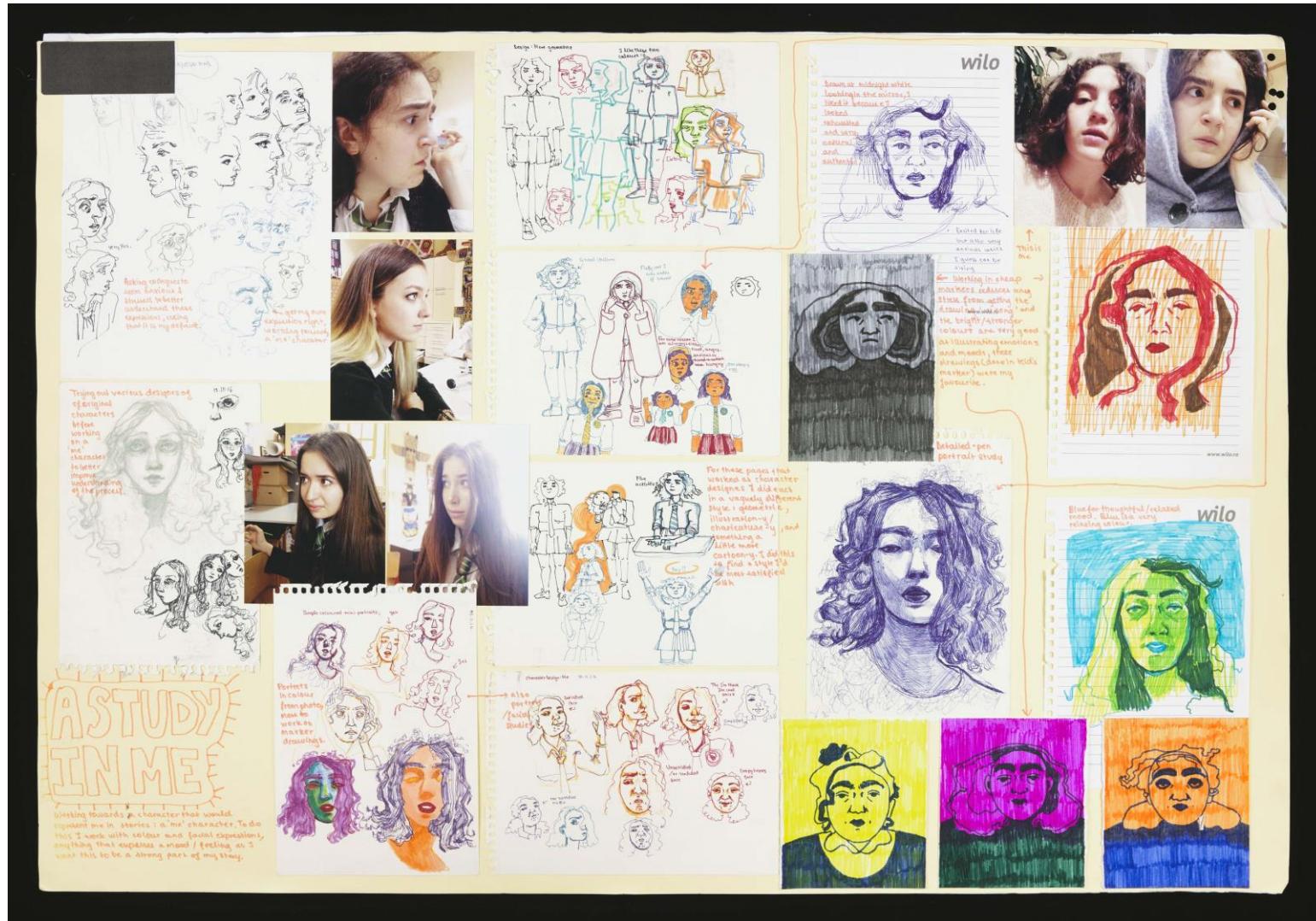
The studies progress and develop throughout the project, demonstrating an excellent ability.



## High level response

### Portfolio

The exploration and evaluation of ideas shows clear communication, which inform the final stages of the project.



## High level response

### Portfolio

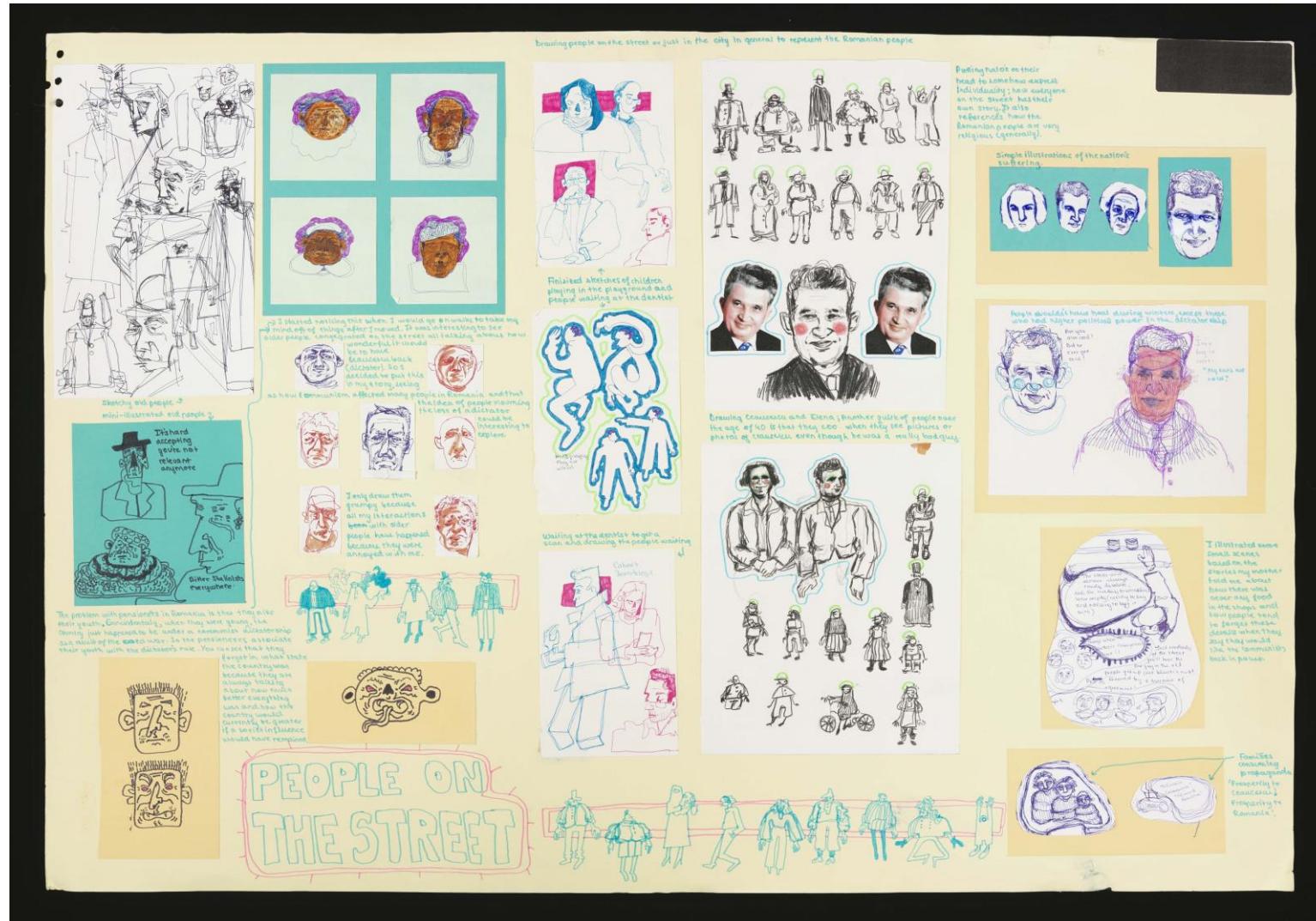
The learner has achieved a series of focused studies that demonstrate a high level of understanding of the materials and media for the specific use of illustration.

## High level response

### Portfolio

Consideration of different media may have been of benefit.





## High level response

### Portfolio

Thorough and relevant research from other sources has allowed the figurative studies to develop into successful graphic strips.

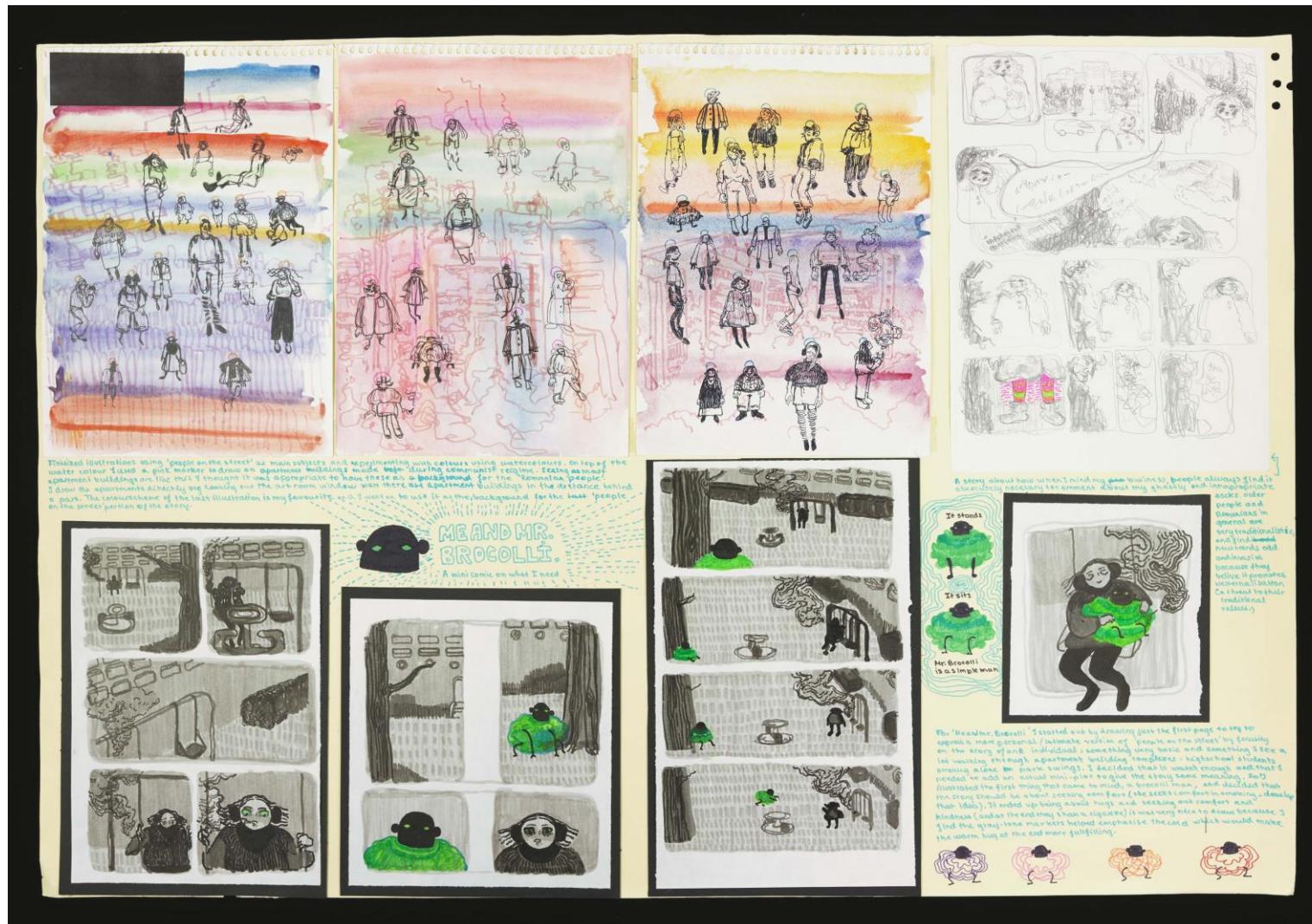
The written annotations support the journey.

## High level response

### Final outcome

The learner is demonstrating skills and competencies effectively, perceptively and with focus by recognising, reviewing and refining potential solutions as the work develops.

The exploration and experimentation demonstrates an excellent grasp of analytical and critical understanding.





## High level response

### Final outcome

A coherent and personal response that is imaginative and indicates a high level of independent work. Significant connections have been made between visual and written elements which are very convincing.

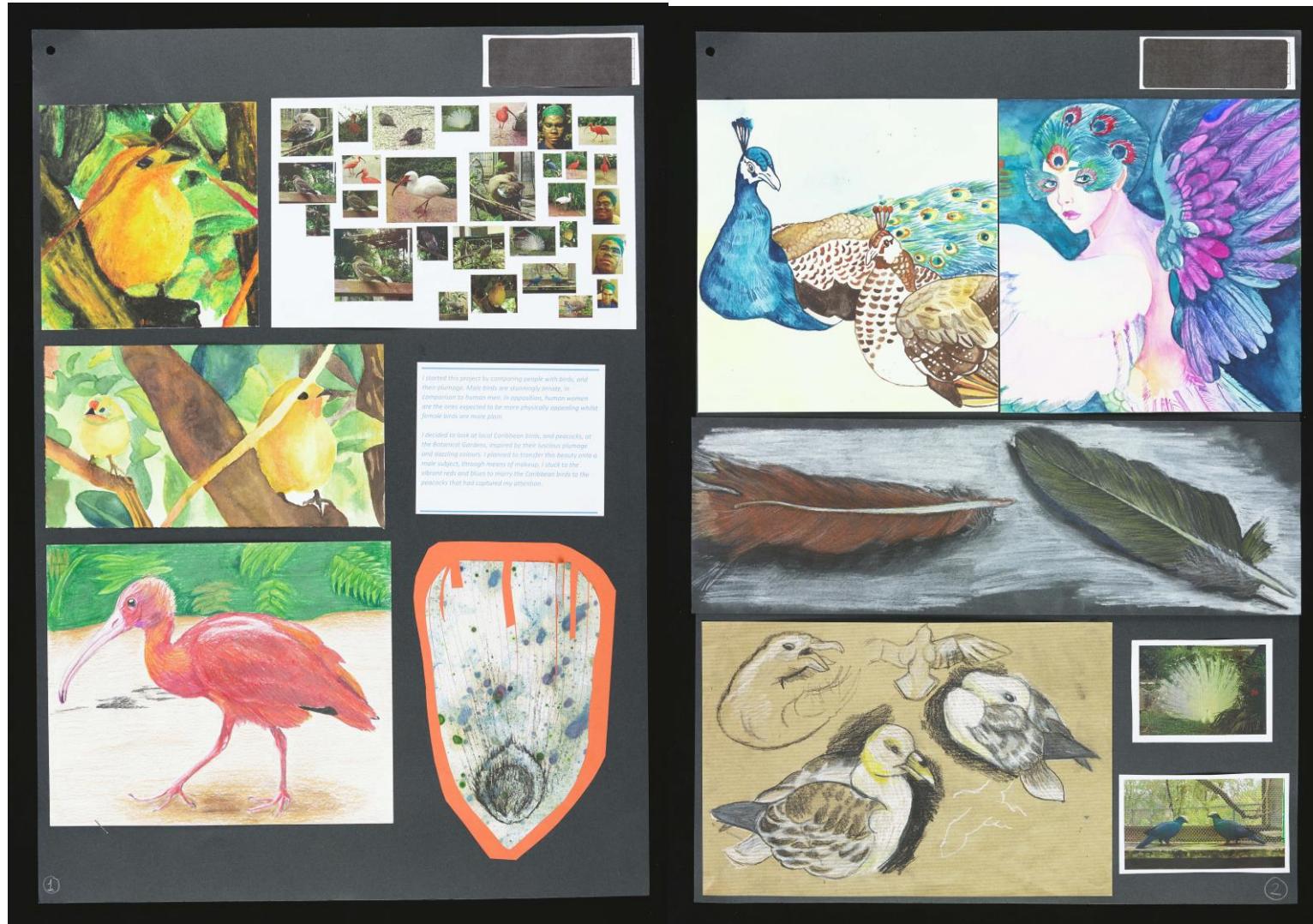


## High level response

### Final outcome

The visual language of the theme is connected throughout the project.

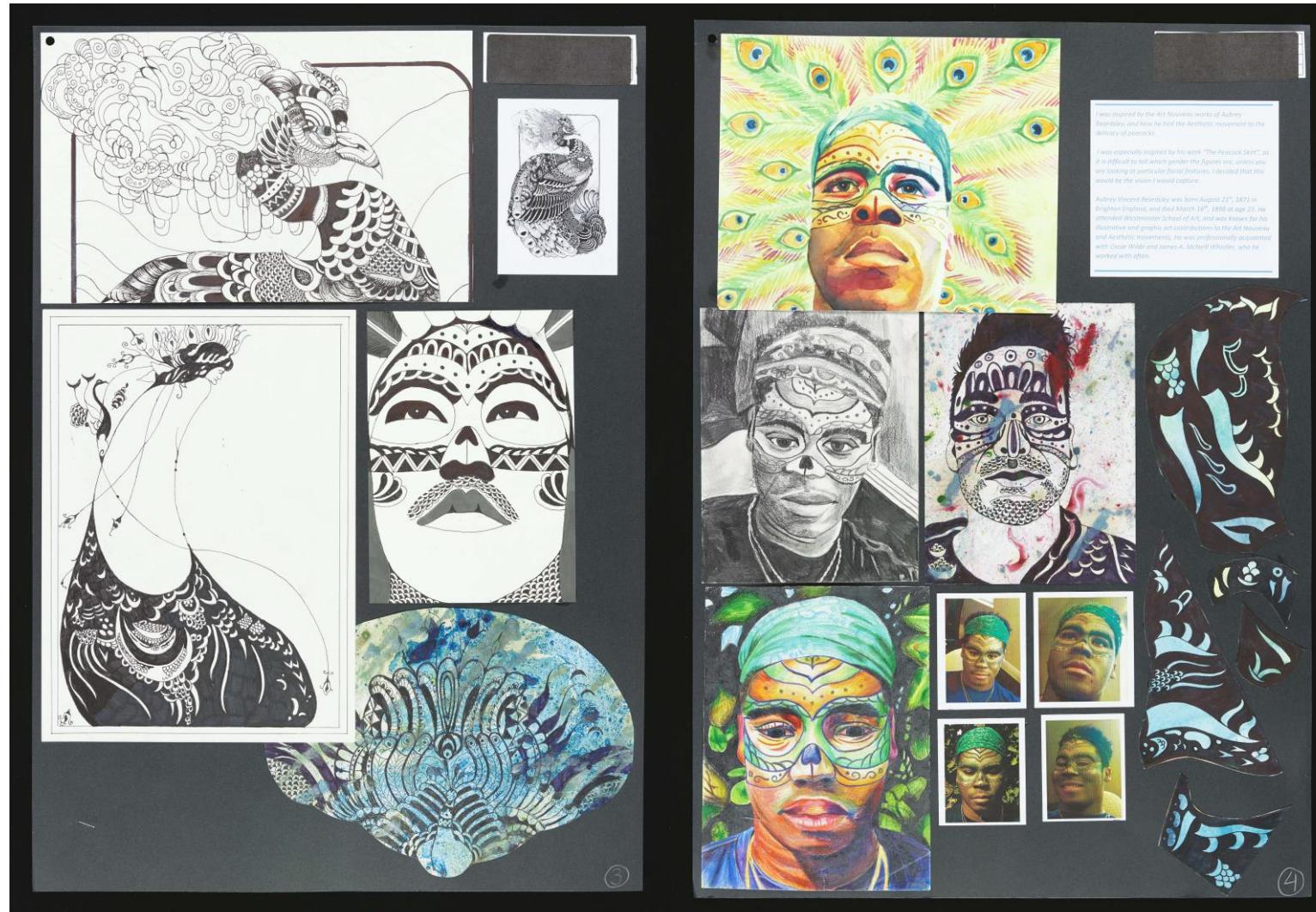
## Component 2: Externally Set Assignment



### Low level response

#### Supporting studies

The initial research is competently investigated from photographs, confirming exploration of texture and tone.



## Low level response

### Supporting studies

There is some use of different and appropriate materials and media and there is evidence of recognising and exploring different possible outcomes.

However, the research is quite linear and does not explore enough artistic influences within the context of the theme.

Patterns are intricately worked out but sensitivity is lost in the translation to the faces.



## Low level response

### Supporting studies

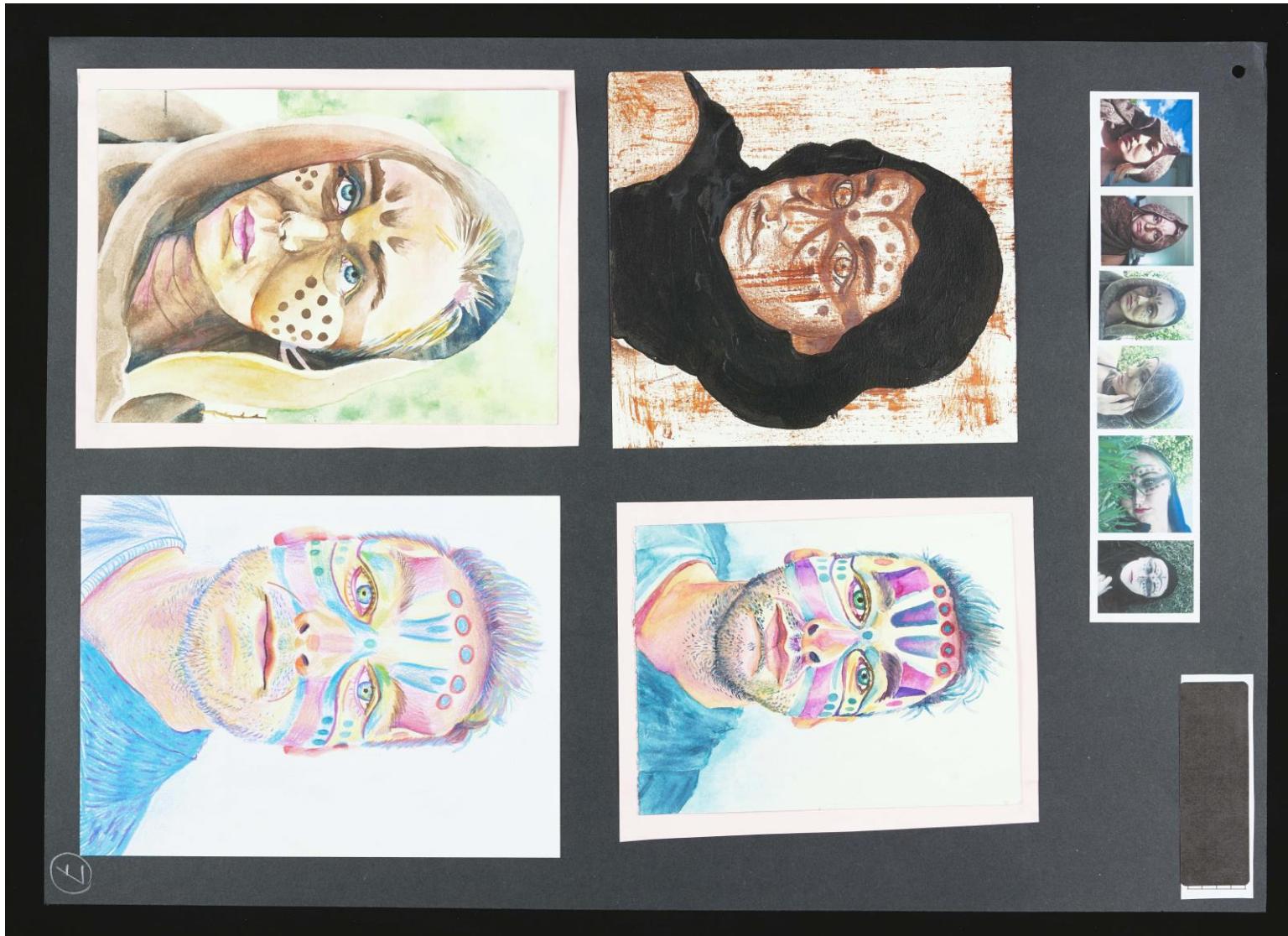
The work demonstrates a limited ability to control and organise ideas by reviewing and refining them as the work develops.

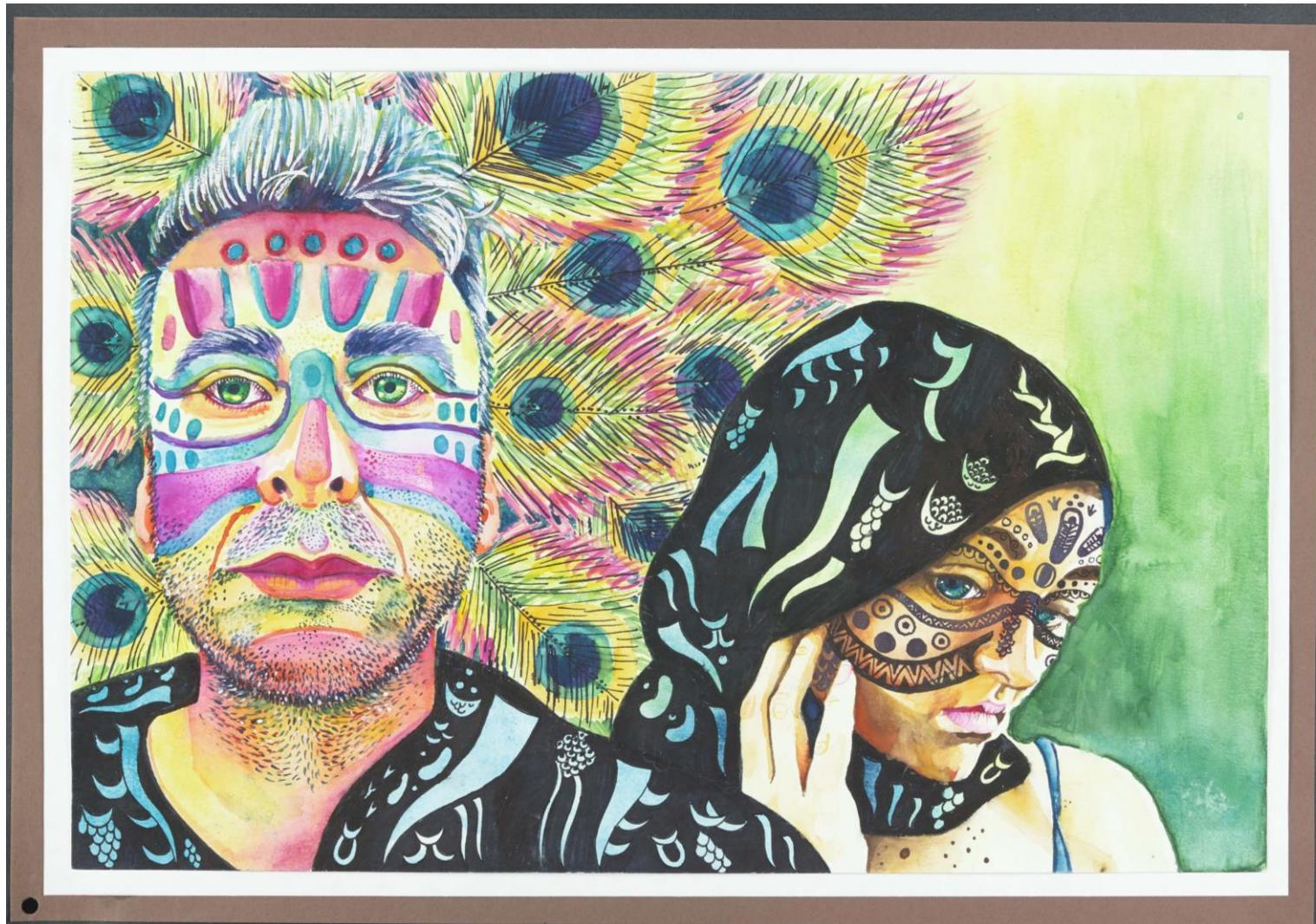
Stronger cultural and personal links to the choices made would have helped the work to develop to a higher level.

## Low level response

### Supporting studies

In-depth analysis and investigation of facial studies could have improved the overall aesthetic of the portraits with patterned skin.



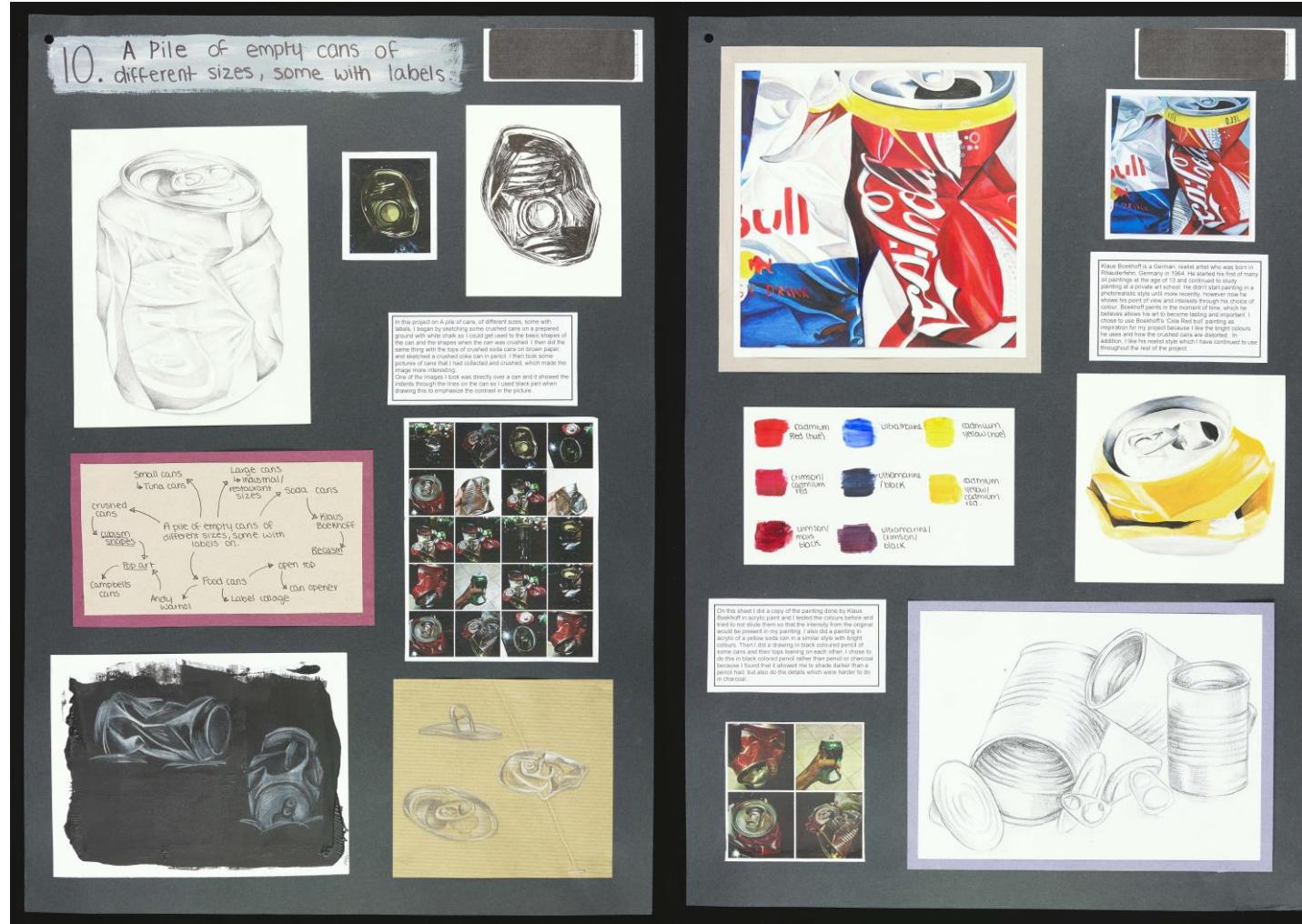


## Low level response

### Final outcome

A reflective outcome that shows some evidence of the learner's intentions.

The final outcome could have exhibited a stronger and more convincing response if the initial studies had been developed and expanded to a more focused and in-depth investigation using a range of relevant sources.



## Mid-high level response

### Supporting studies

The work demonstrates some highly effective initial ideas.

The work is well-presented, following a structured and annotated process.

Detailed investigations of the cans' crumpled nature have been thoroughly researched.

The surface, texture and properties have been analysed in different media to a competent level.



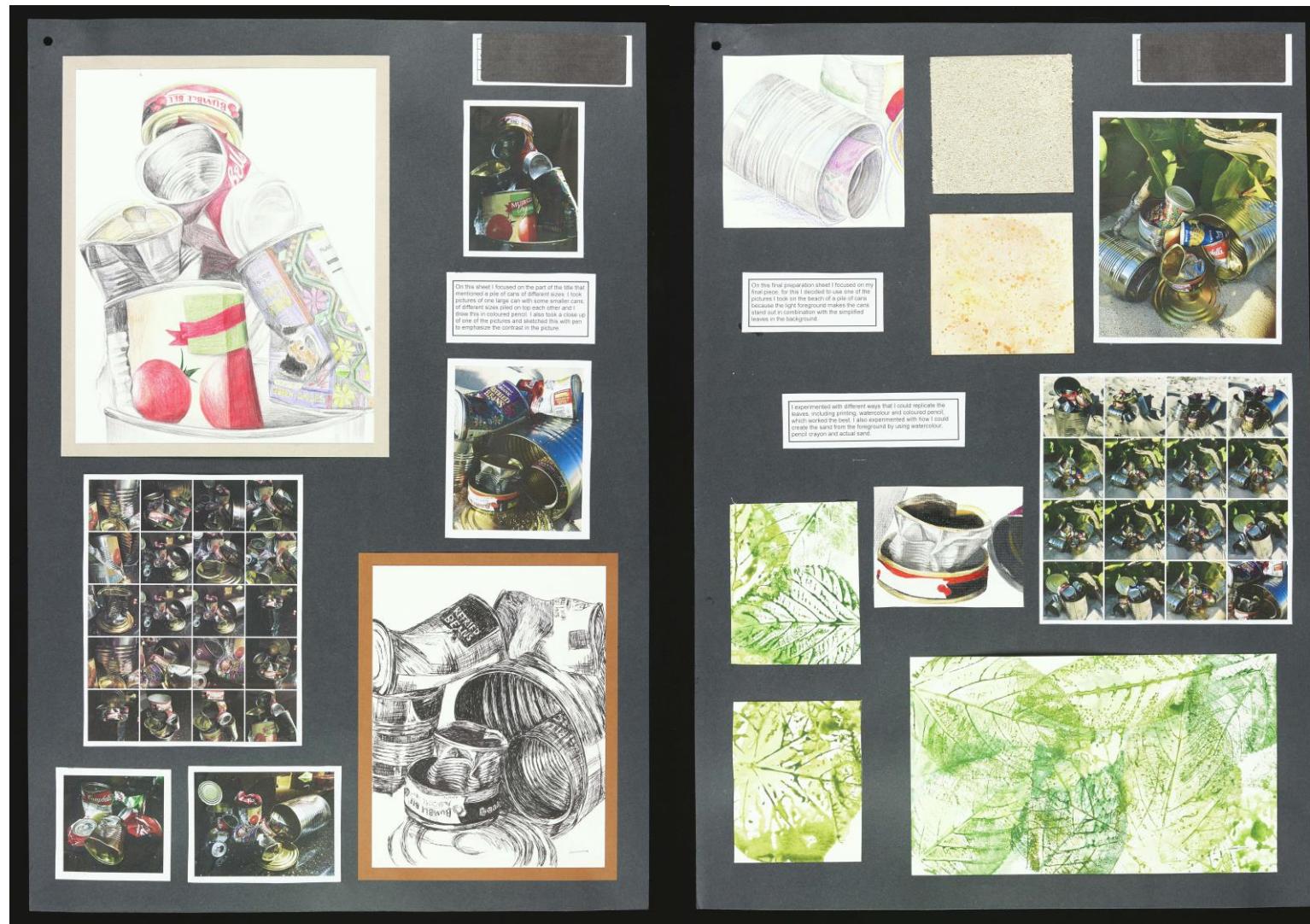
## Mid-high level response

### Supporting studies

The analysis of the influence of Andy Warhol within the context of the theme is assured.

The learner has taken a crumpled soup can and applied the *Campbell's* label to it. This exhibits an effective ability to experiment and to push ideas through to the final outcome.

The annotation is appropriate and the photographs clearly indicate the depth of research.



## Mid-high level response

### Supporting studies

An extended exploration of media and materials whilst developing the still-life could have been encouraged.

This would have resulted in a more sophisticated level of research and a higher level of achievement.

The texture of the leaves seen in the supporting studies has been processed through contact printing. However, this process was not used in the final outcome and its inclusion within the supporting sheets adds no value.



**Mid-high level  
response**

**Final outcome**

The final outcome shows a competent level of engagement. The visual relationship between all the elements is well balanced and considered.

The use of different media is good. However, the sensitive use of colour seen on the cans in earlier research was not displayed as confidently here.

Research into other artists' techniques with regard to foreground arrangement within the context of the still-life would have informed the final outcome.



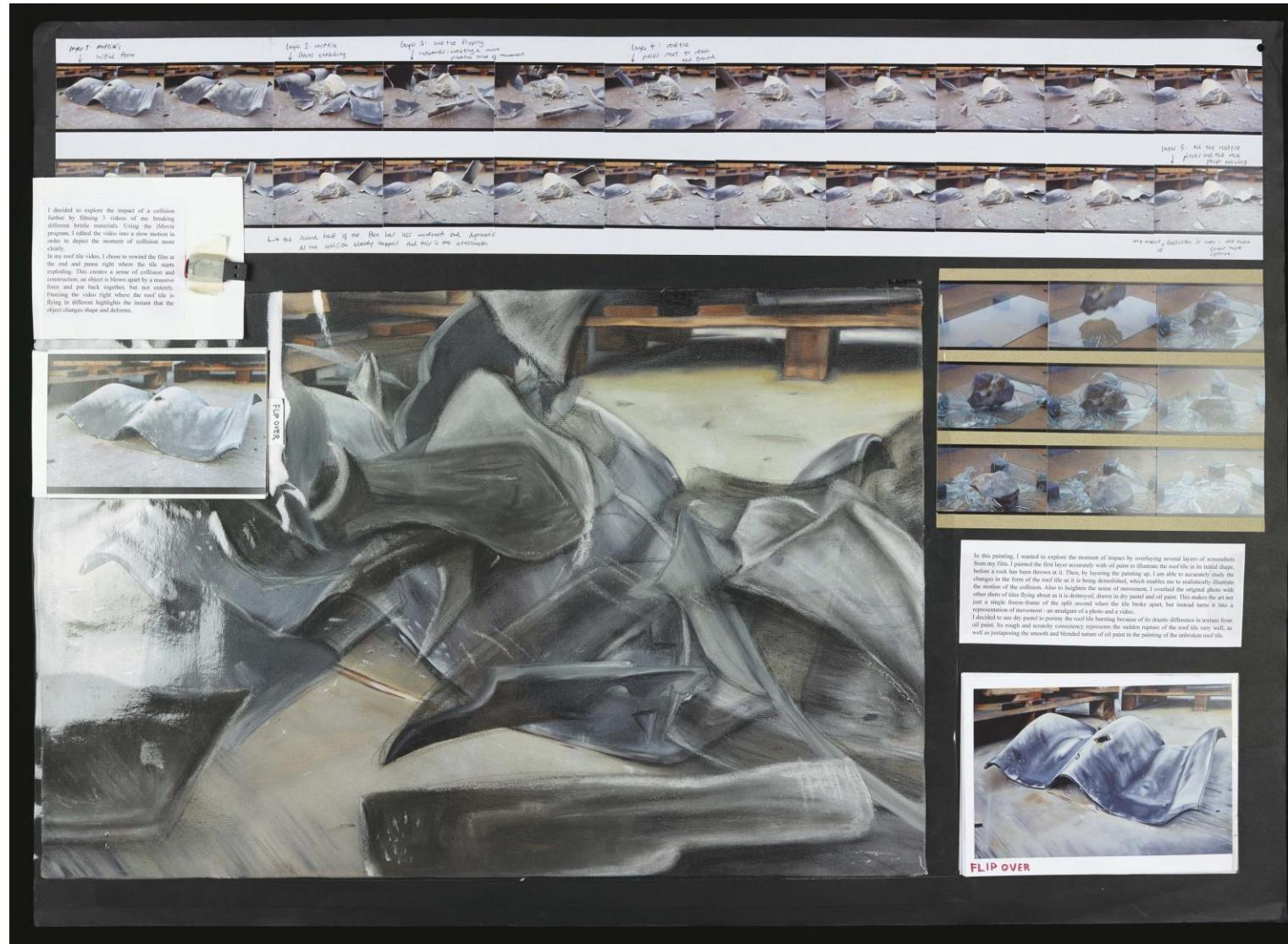
## High level response

### Supporting studies

The learner has experimented with a wide range of appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes by recognising and exploiting emerging possibilities to successfully develop solutions.

References to the installation artist Cornelia Parker were confident and relevant.

The learner has used specific works as a basis for reference and to expand and explore their theme in-depth. They have also been used in an independent manner.



## High level response

### Supporting studies

These studies show how the artist's techniques within their chosen media of glass and clay has been developed and adapted by the learner.



## High level response

### Supporting studies

The overall shape of the vessel has been maintained. The work displays a mature, independent and imaginative response.

There is a highly accomplished level of technical skill with regard to the control employed over the clay medium, and the series of photographs taken indicate a high level of interest and personal engagement with the theme.



## High level response

### Final outcome

The final outcome is a conceptual piece displaying striking aesthetic appeal. The response makes sophisticated and mature connections of accomplished practice throughout.

Greater exploration of more media techniques and review of more than one installation artist would have been beneficial.

## Component 3: Personal Investigation

The image shows a handwritten document on lined paper. At the top right, it says "Word count: 1944". The main title is "How is Louise Nevelson's artwork influenced by her upbringing?". Below the title, there is a section heading "Introduction". The text discusses Louise Nevelson's creative process and her background as a Russian Jew who fled to America after World War Two, mentioning how her experience influenced her work. The handwriting is cursive and appears to be done in black ink.

Word count: 1944

## How is Louise Nevelson's artwork influenced by her upbringing?

### Introduction

Most artists create out of despair. The very nature of creation is not a performing glory on the outside; it is a painful, difficult search within. Louise Nevelson conceptualizes her practice in this way because she was a Russian Jew who had to relocate to America following the despair of World War Two. As she departed, she witnessed the charred and fragmented remains left behind by the War and this experience infiltrated her work.

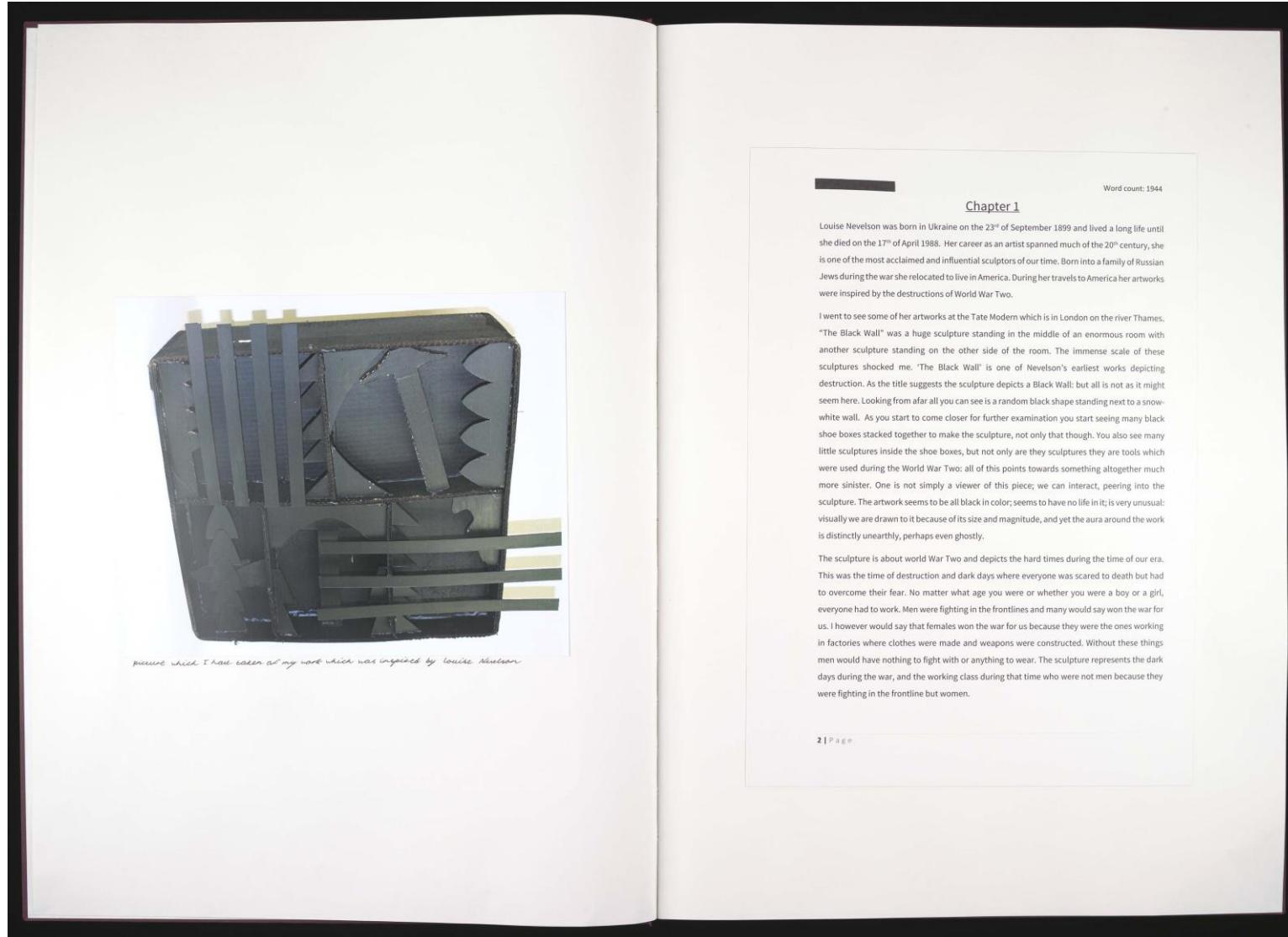
I will be investigating the work of Louise Nevelson; I am particularly interested in how this artist's work is influenced by her upbringing. It is interesting how the period of time, which you have lived through, can influence your artwork.

The assemblages, which Louise Nevelson makes, fascinate me because of the inherent importance that they have in our culture; they are more than just sculptures. They remind us of the times of horror during the World War Two but also enlighten our hearts that all of that disaster is past us.

**Low level response**

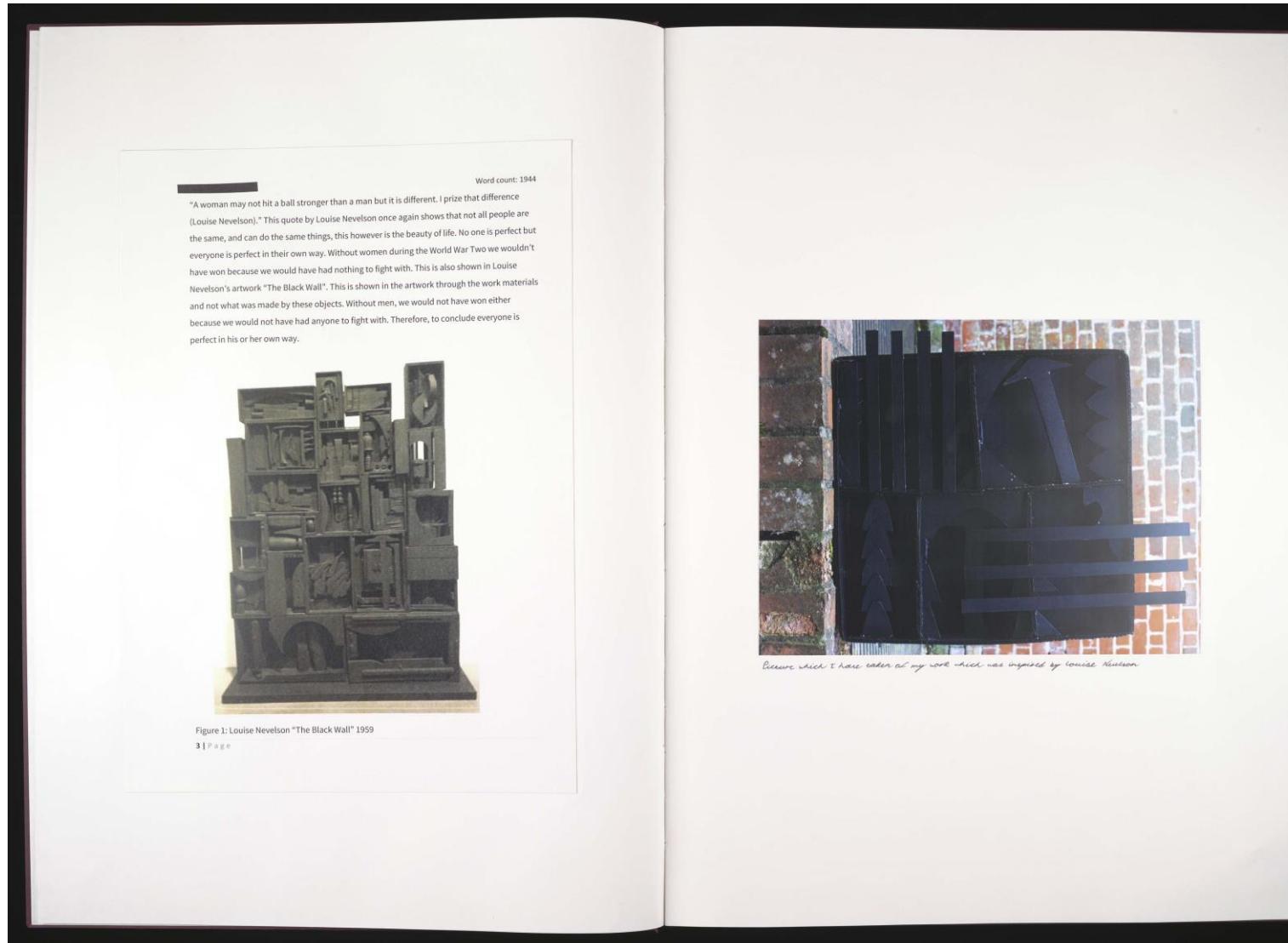
### Supporting studies

This image has been included for completeness. Please see below for comments.



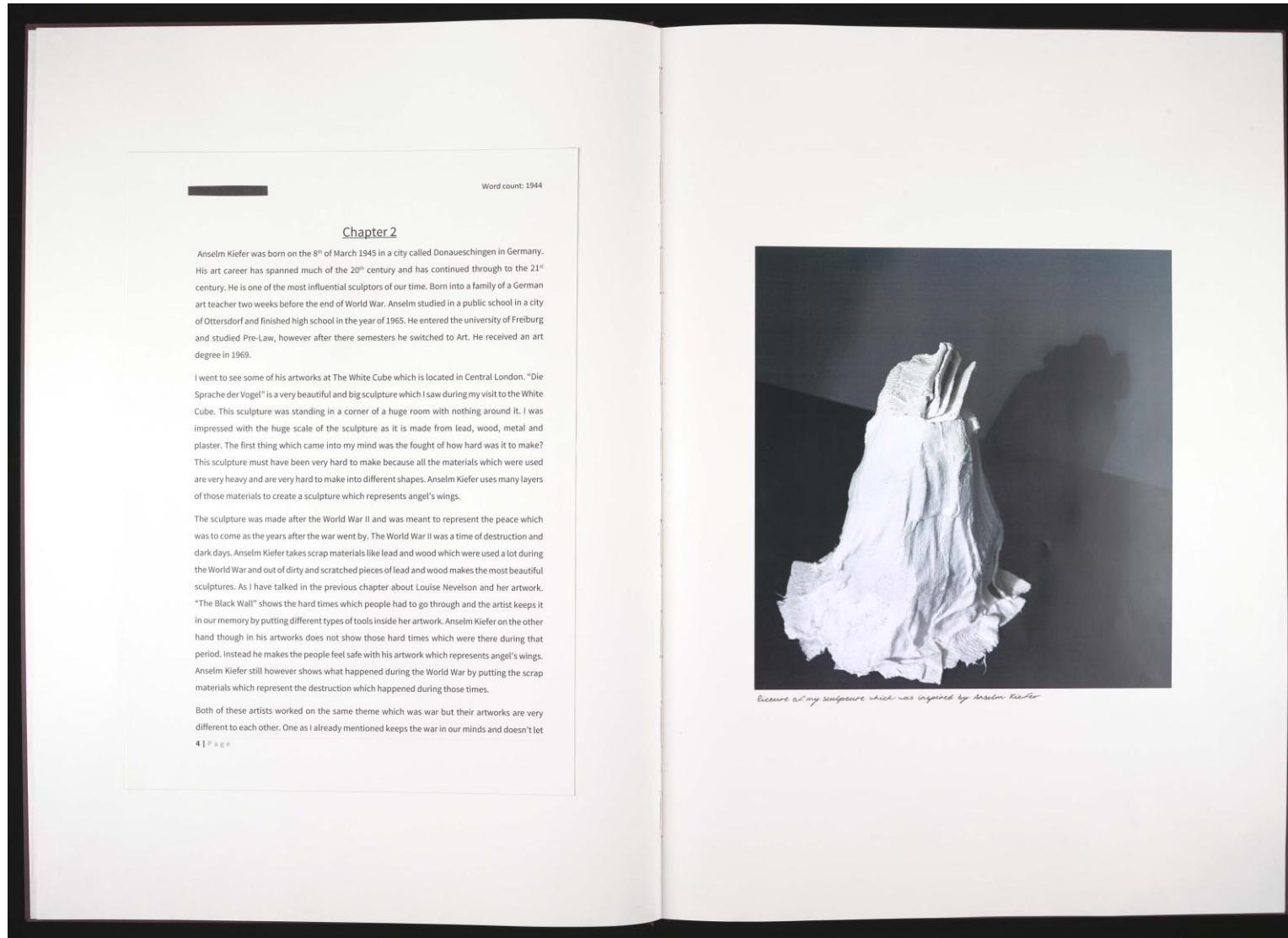
## Low level response

This image has been included for completeness. Please see below for comments.



## Low level response

There is limited research relevant to intentions. Some sense of purpose is evident but typically it limits the ability to reflect critically.



## Low level response

There is some evidence of connections between visual, written and other elements. However, the investigation is limited to a basic appraisal of the impact of events in her childhood on Nevelson, and the direction in which it leads her work.



## Low level response

While the prose and the format is coherent and comprehensively laid out, the study is repetitive. The critical understanding and refining of the enquiry has not evolved to a more accomplished level.

## Component 3 Personal Investigation



## Low level response

The learner accessed some sculptures first-hand in the museums and art galleries, indicating some degree of personal engagement and experience.

However, because the initial idea is not expanded upon, the visual language of the project remains at a basic level.

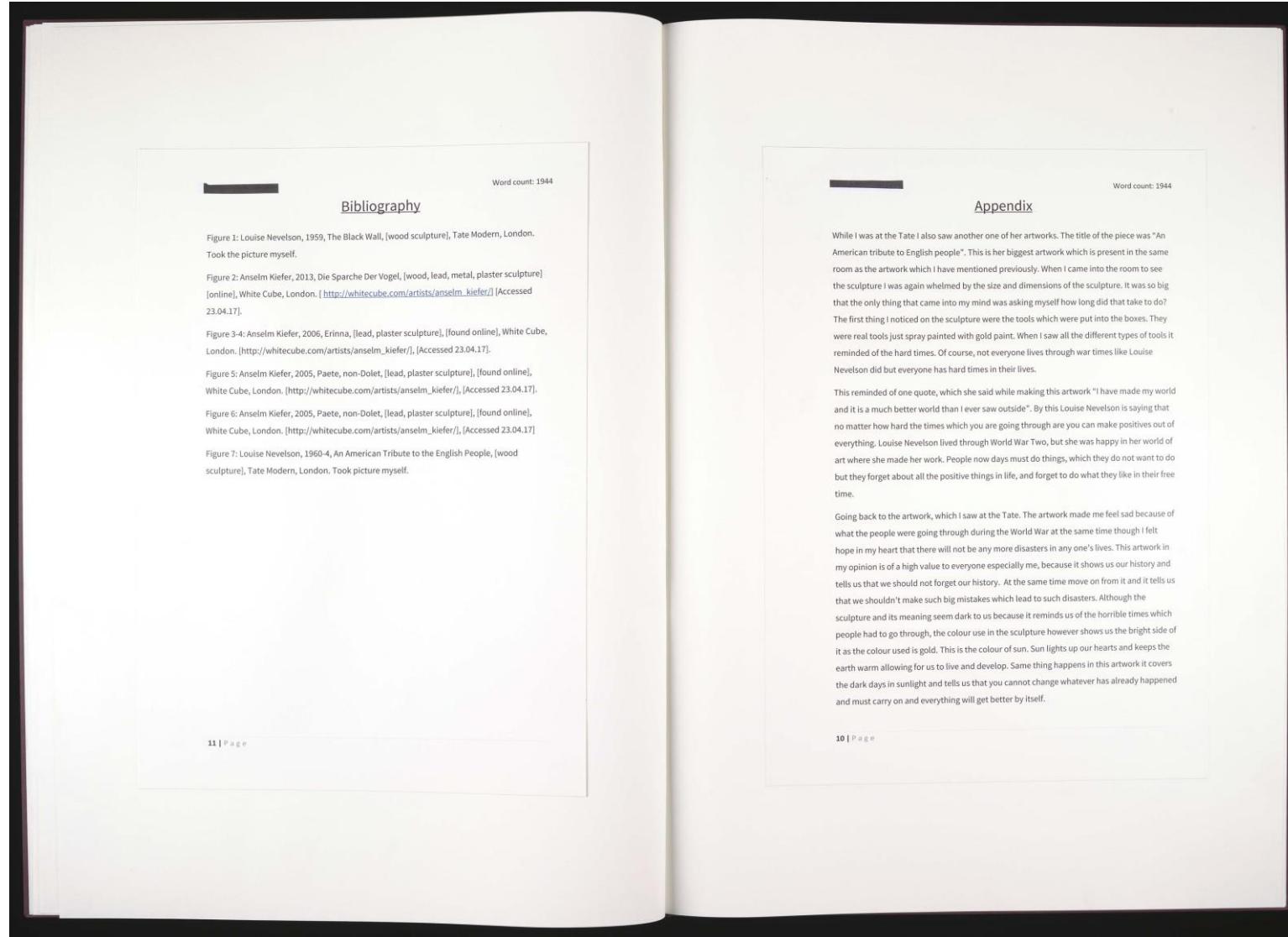


## Low level response

A second artist is introduced into the study and was not mentioned in the original statement. While it may be advantageous to research additional artists who could strengthen the critical understanding of the Personal Investigation, these must be relevant and integral to the study.

The relationship between the artists and their experiences, and the learner and their interpretation of these factors into their practical work, is not given enough attention, and so the discussion of the theme is only ever adequate.

## Component 3 Personal Investigation

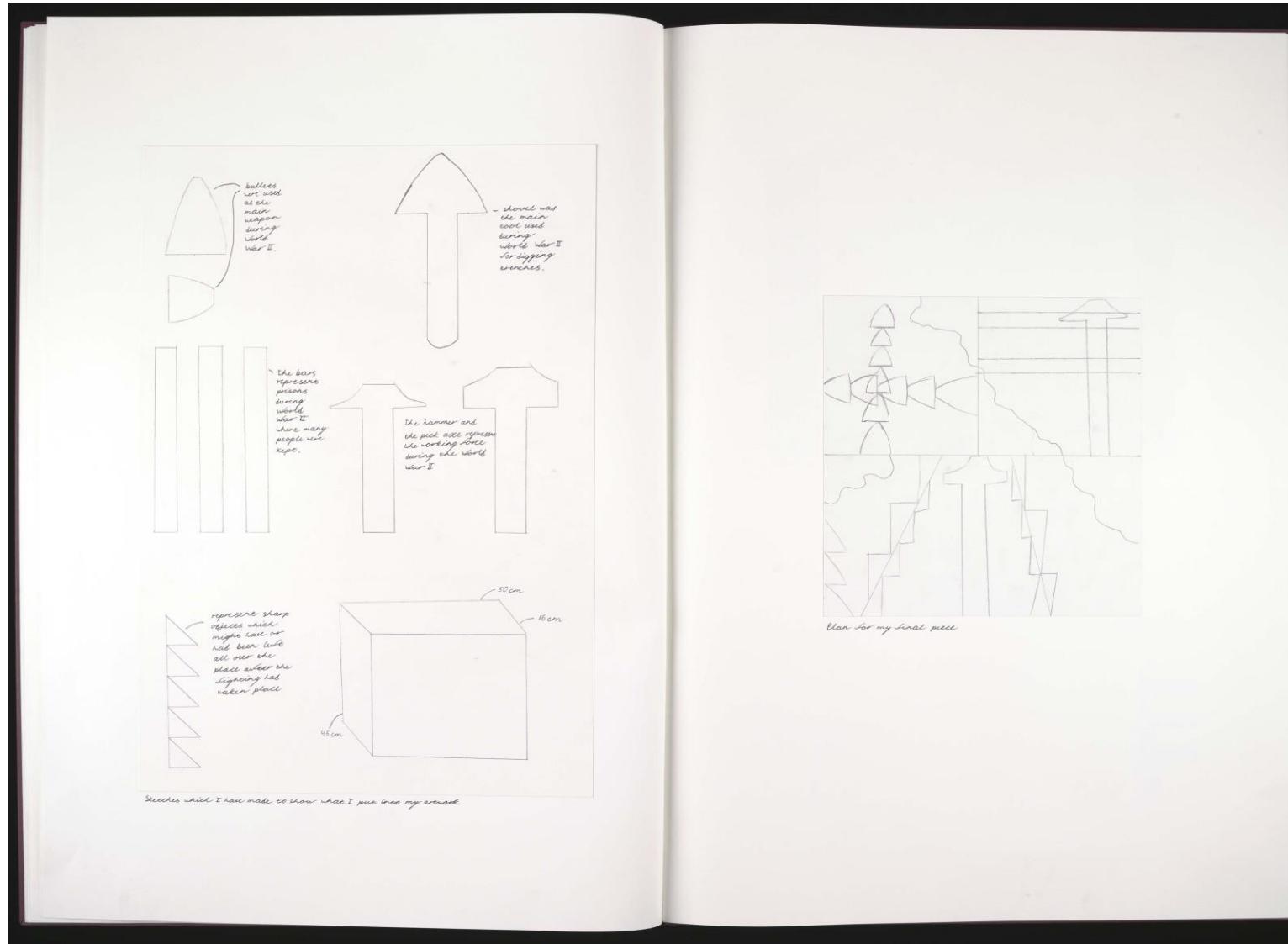


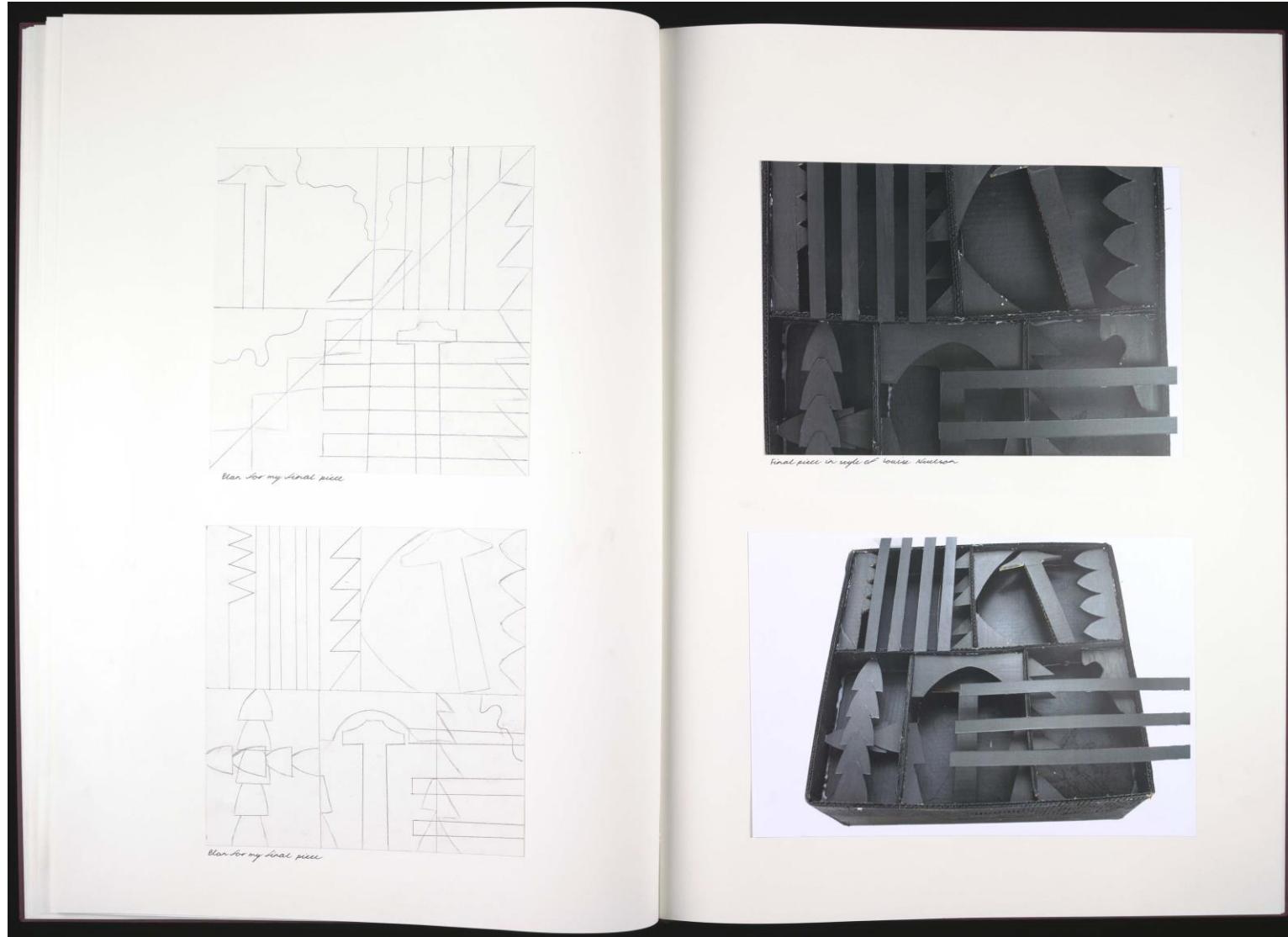
## Low level response

This image has been included for completeness. Please see below for comments.

## Low level response

First hand sources were satisfactory.

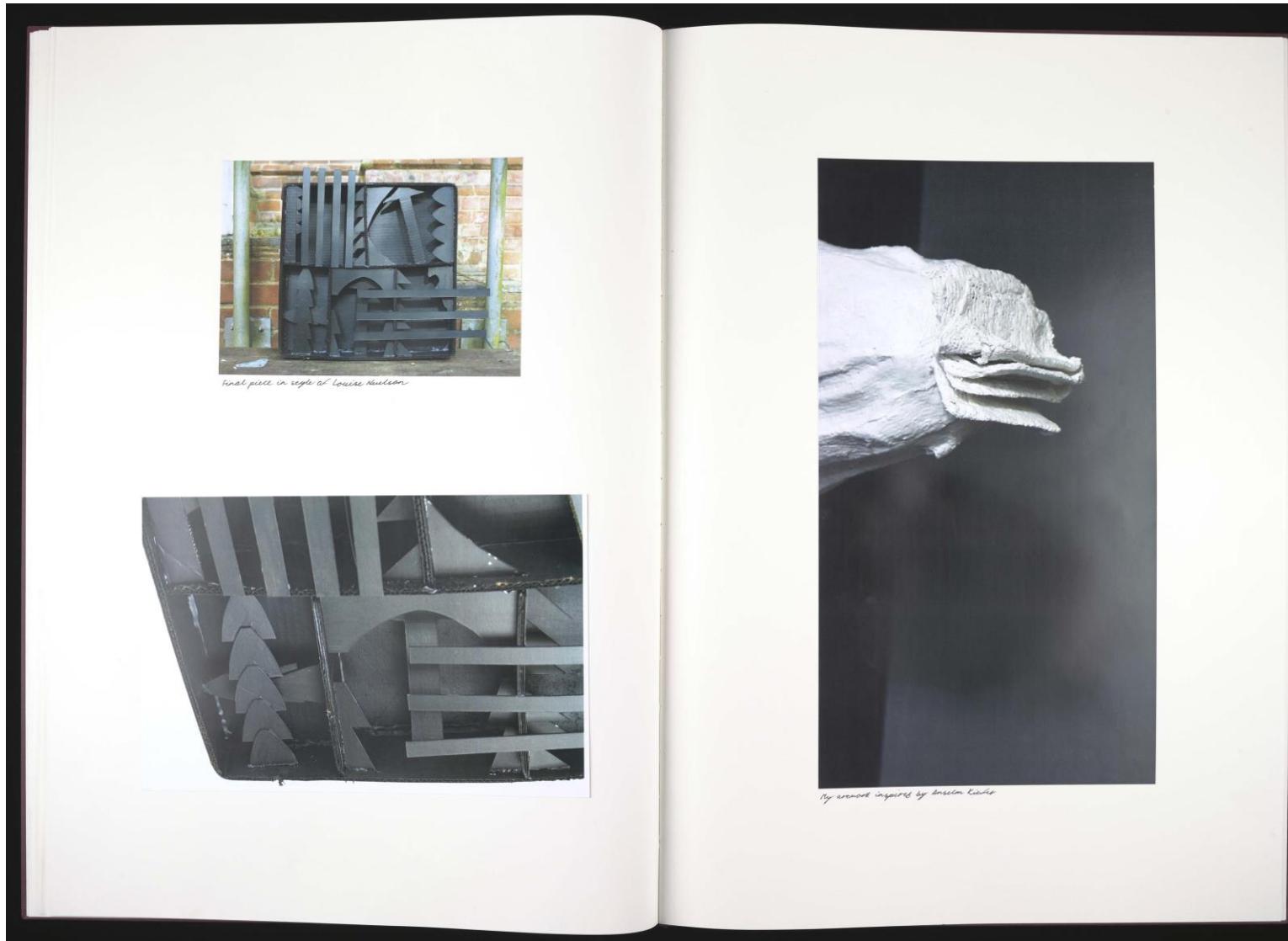




### Low level response

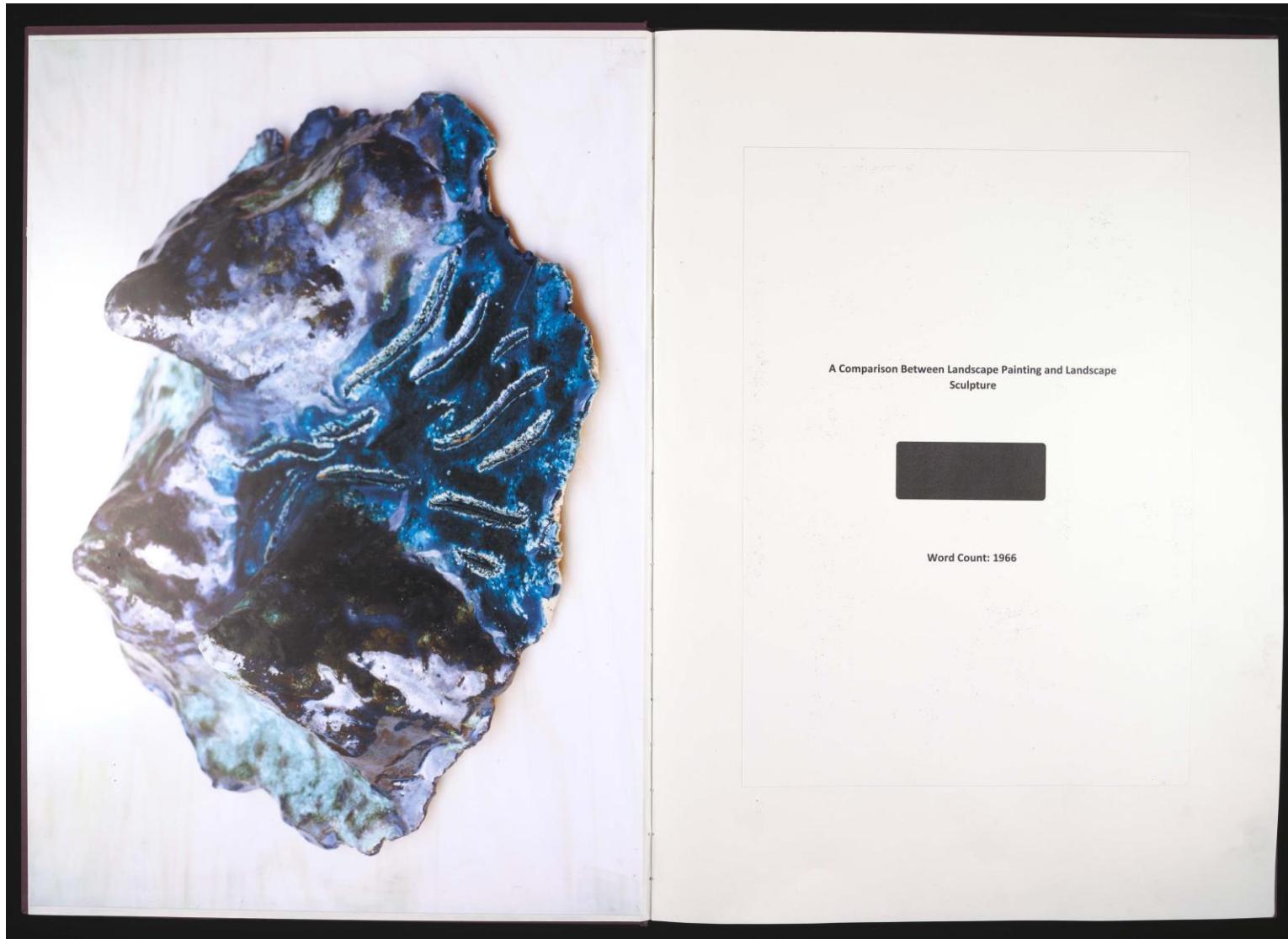
The learner has produced their own three-dimensional response to the artists' work. The response is clear and the work includes personal and informed judgements and observations through to their own work.

Unfortunately, the research into techniques and processes, and the handling of the materials used conveys a limited sense of purpose and relevance.



### Low level response

The Personal Investigation could have been improved with further practical and analytical exploration of the subject matter.



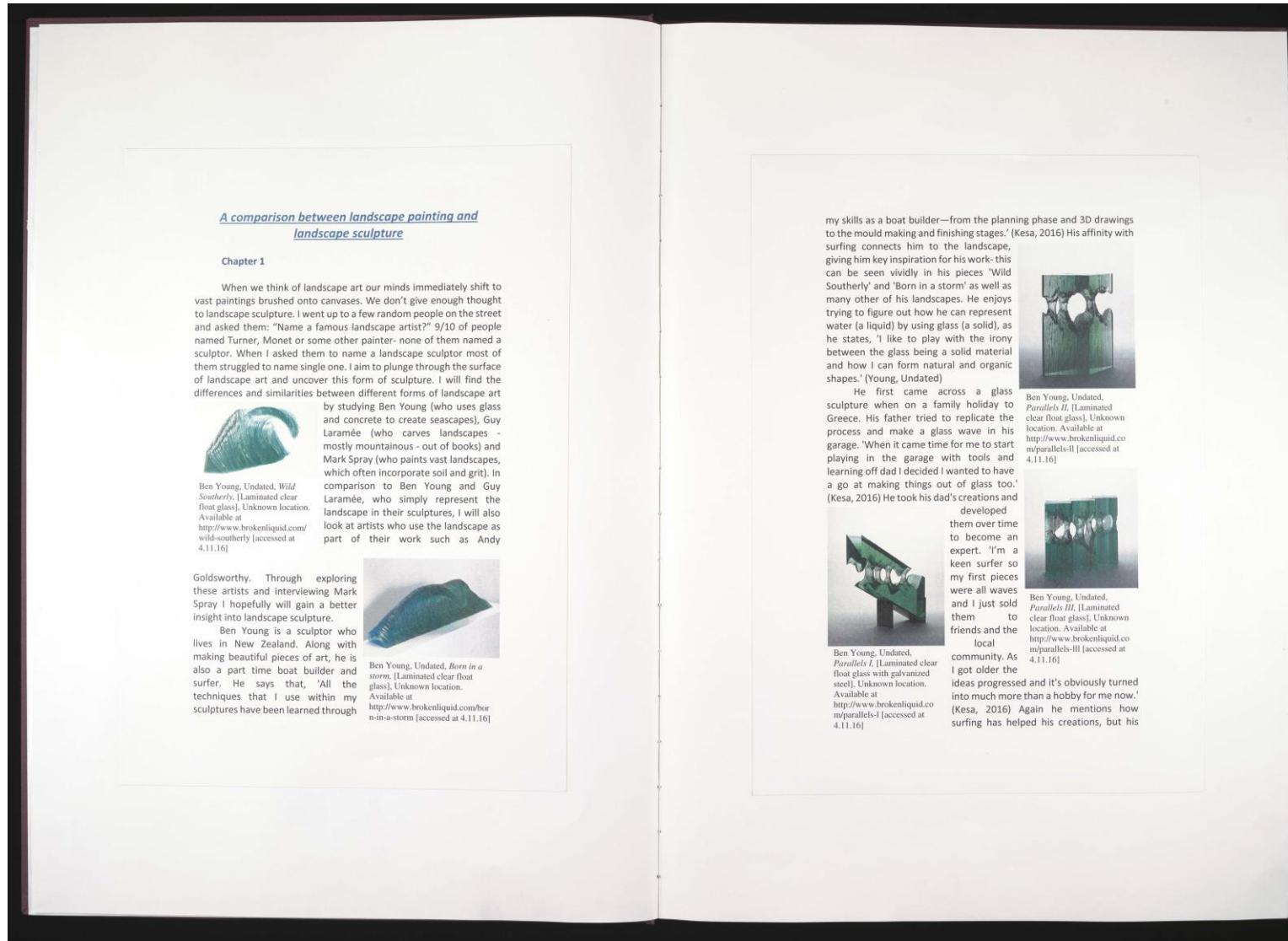
### Mid-level response

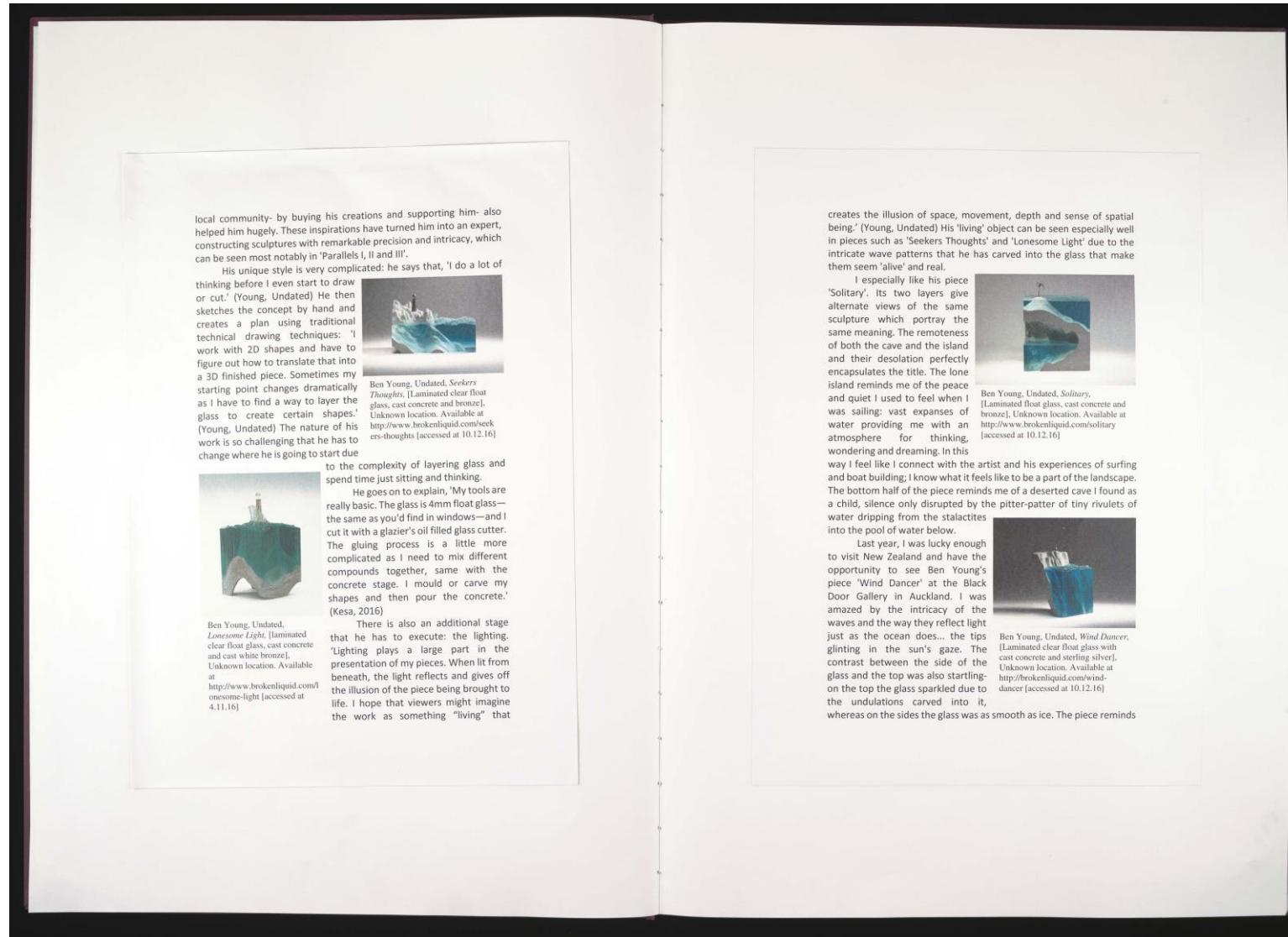
This work shows evidence of organised planning and the presentation is comprehensively laid out.

## Mid-level response

The topic for this Personal Investigation is 'A comparison between landscape painting and landscape sculpture', referencing some local and non-local artists to support the development of the brief.

There is some evidence of first-hand resources.





## Mid-level response

This image has been included for completeness. Please see below for comments.



RESIN AND STONWARE

GLAZED EARTHENWARE

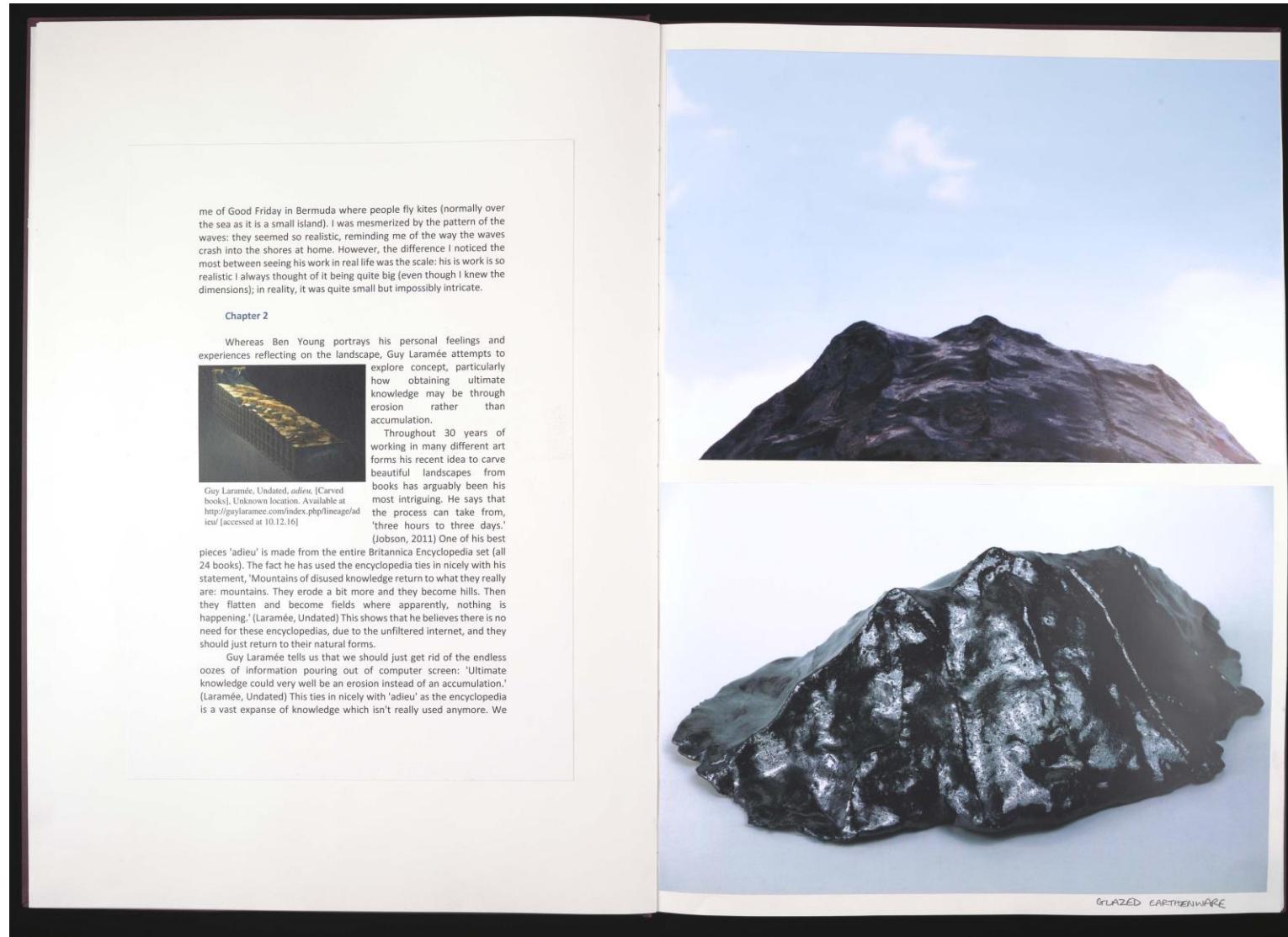
### Mid-level response

There is evidence of a coherent and personal theme throughout the development. The written part is well constructed and clearly composed.

However, the enquiry does not appear to explore personal views beyond an informed level.

While the research is purposeful and competent, it is more descriptive than analytical.

This prevents the project from developing further into an integrated observation, where formal elements are discussed at a more personal and independent level.



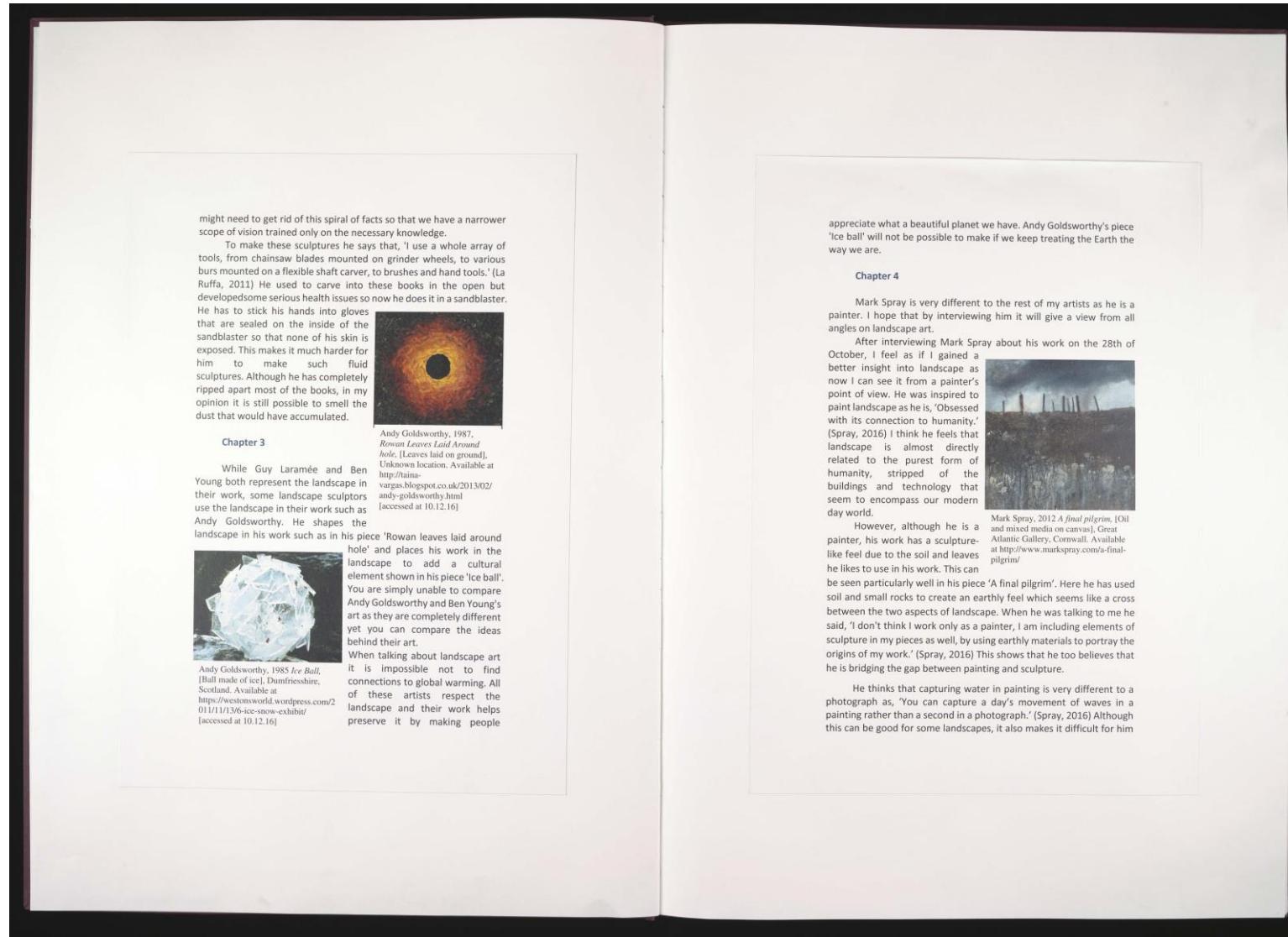
## Mid-level response

The interview with the artist, although first-hand, could have been better planned with more conceptual thinking relating to the theme.

Questions relating to the analysis of the comparison would have directed the research to a more convincing appraisal.

The prose is continuous and shows good ability to refine and review the work as it develops.

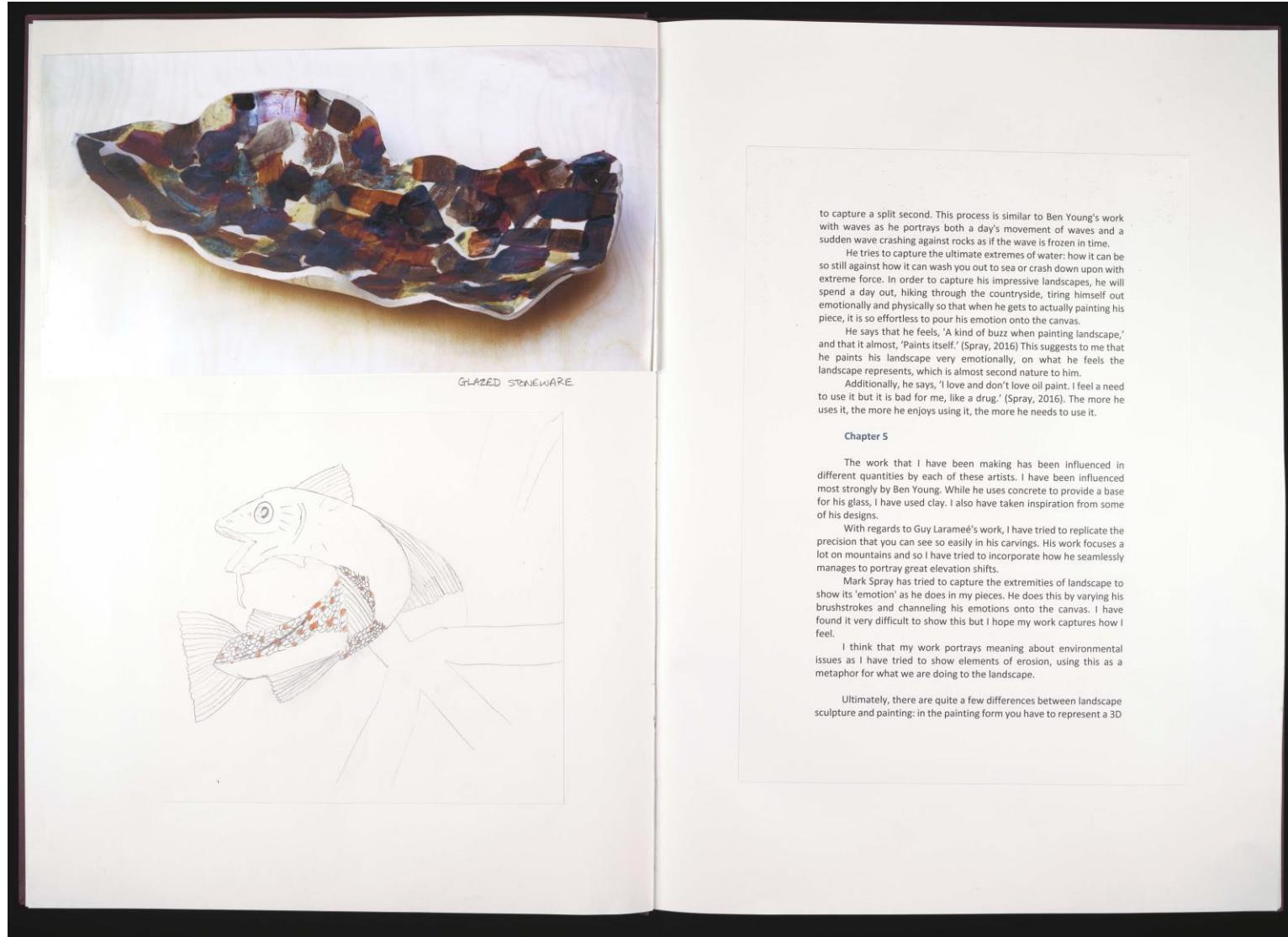
However, it reads more like a scripted narrative rather than demonstrating clear critical understanding by perceptive analysis.



## Mid-level response

The practical studies relate to the artists chosen and show appropriate technical selection of research material that can be identified within the context of the project.

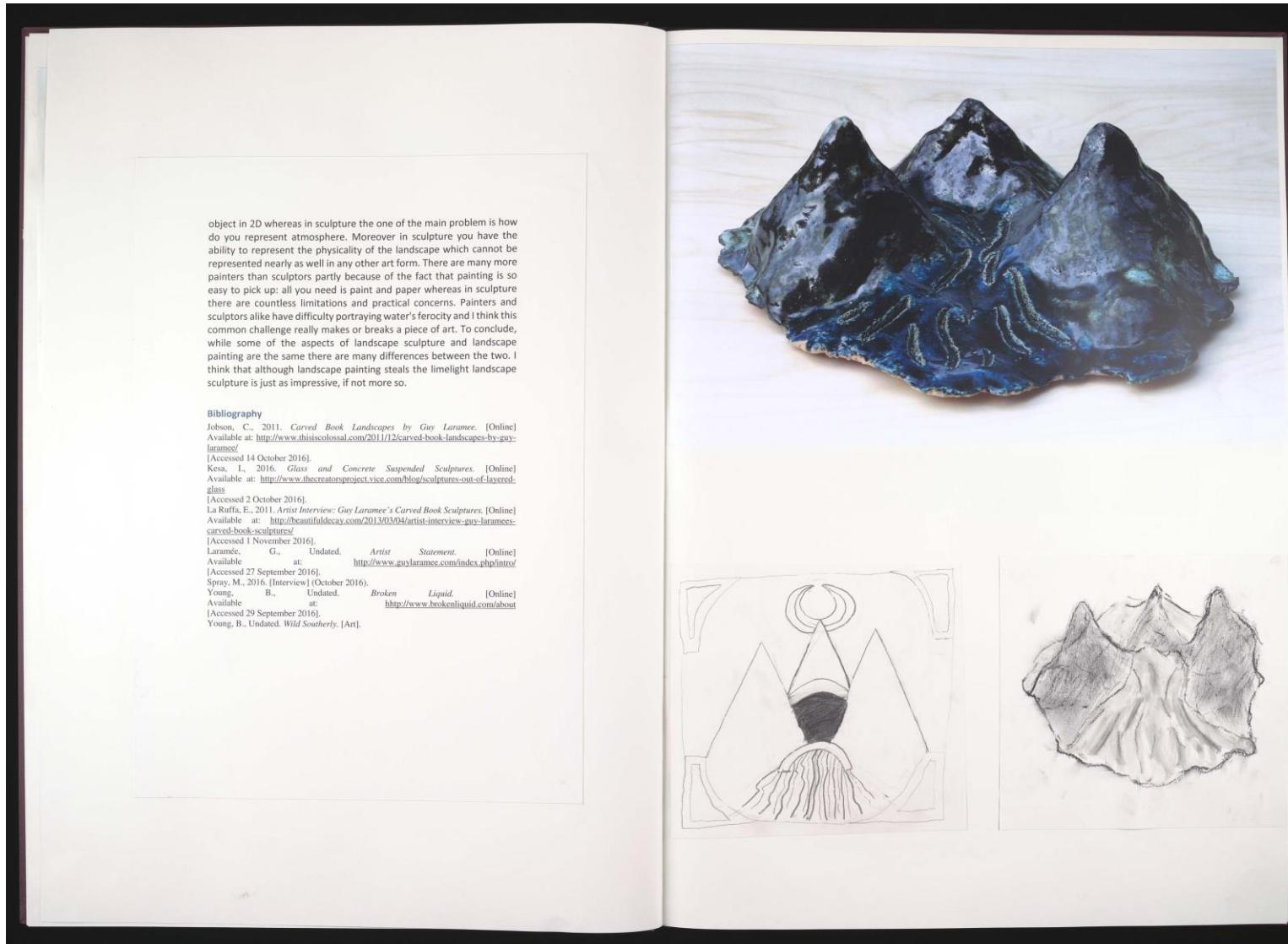
The process is well-documented and explored, but it lacks cohesion as it is has not evolved aesthetically enough to support the topic.



## Mid-level response

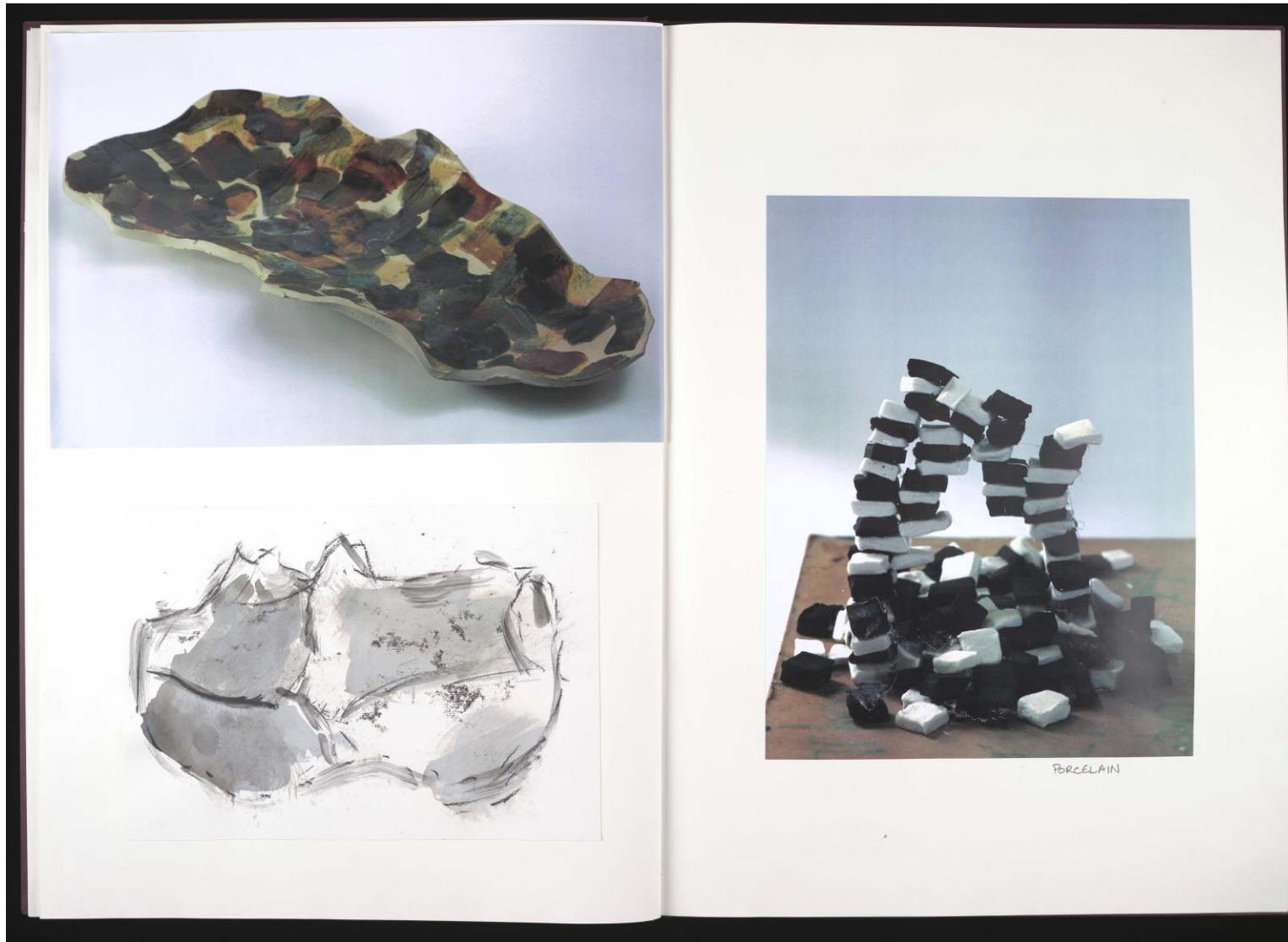
A good ability to reference the artists' work is obvious. The learner has made connections throughout the project.

However, the depth of integration of visual and analytical elements needs to be expanded upon in order to relate a strong sense of personal engagement.



## Mid-level response

This indicates some success through thorough research.



### Mid-level response

The presentation shows evidence of some personal and coherent realisation of intentions but it might have shown greater imagination and independence in order to make significant connections.



### Mid-level response

The investigation of the theme is relevant.

However, the linear quality of the review has prevented a more in-depth approach to the study. The conclusion is superficial and lacks consideration.



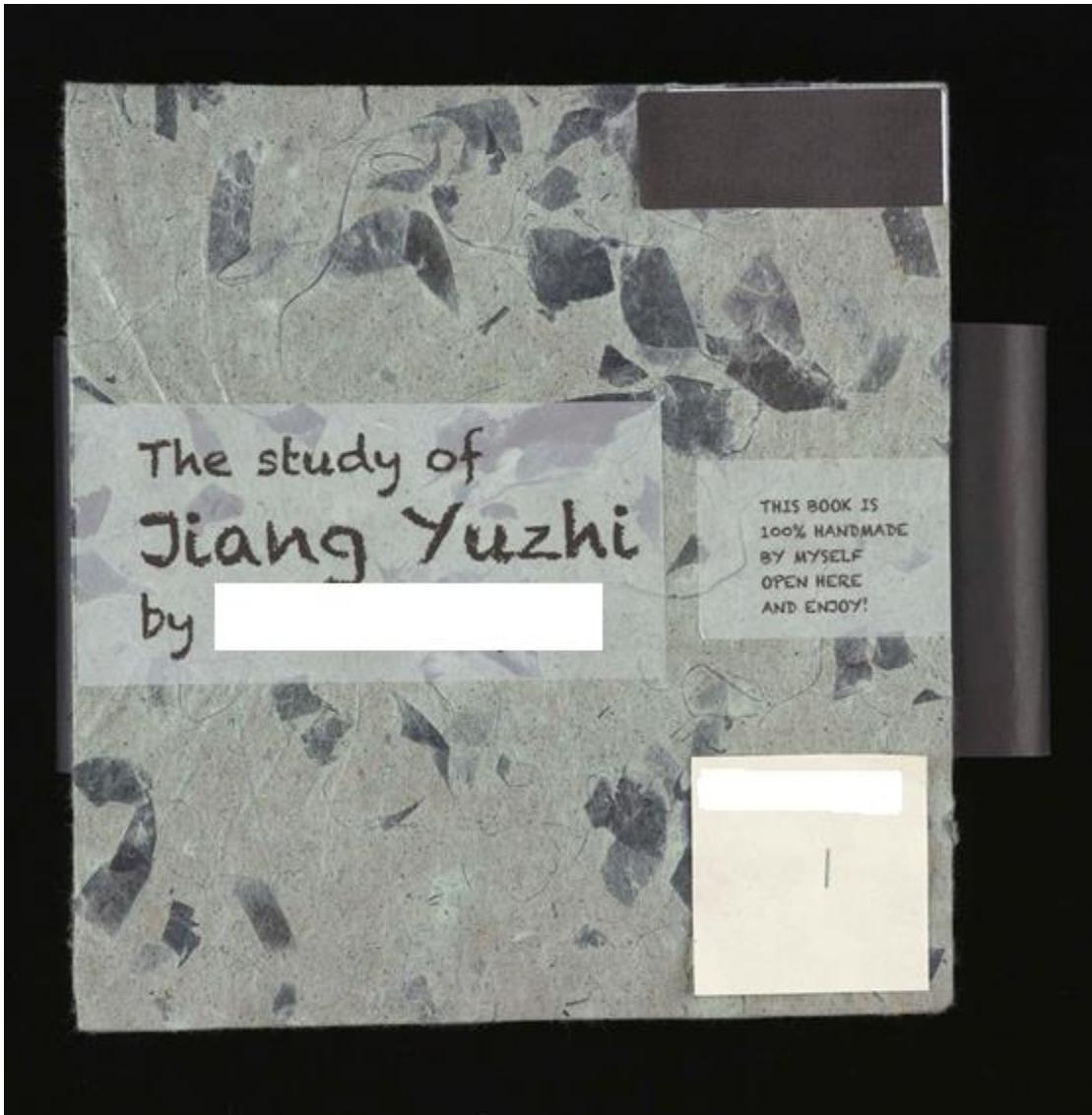
### Mid-level response

The brief has not been fully realised.

### Mid-level response

This image has been included for completeness.  
Please see below for comments.





### High-level response

This image has been included for completeness. Please see below for comments.

## High-level response

The work is highly accomplished, with links to local cultural and artist influences throughout.



### Component 3 Personal Investigation



### High-level response

First-hand sources and learner-conducted interviews form a strong foundation for the project.

Recording ideas, observations and insights are confident. They demonstrate reflective, critical and independent judgements.

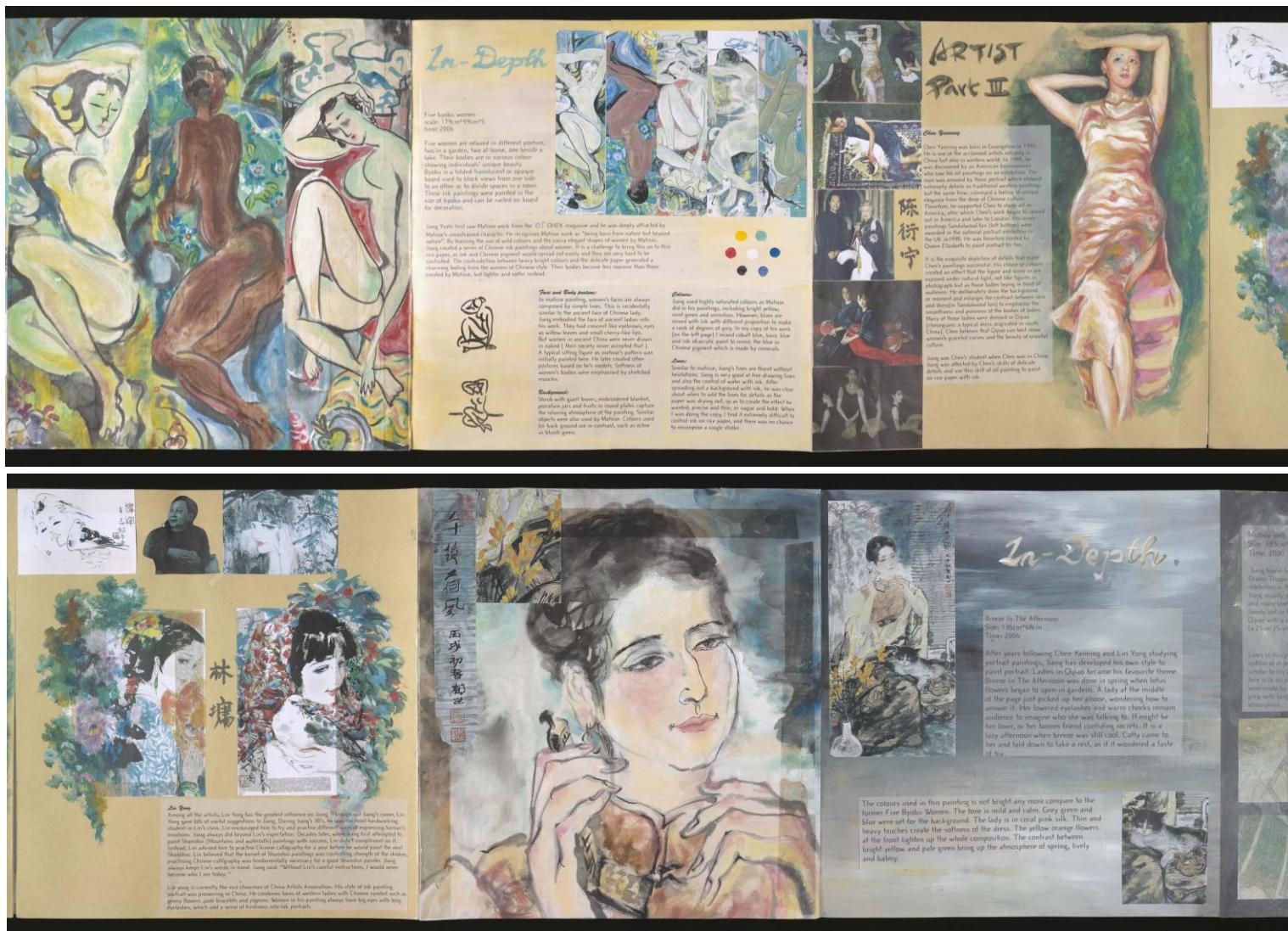
The research is coherent throughout the practical work.



## High-level response

The work is reviewed, explored and skilfully interwoven with analysis of choice works carried out by the chosen artist.





# High-level response

Understanding of the concept and the direction of the brief is clearly exhibited through the layout and written commentary.

The experience of the learner with their culture, the museums, galleries and the artist has allowed them to make significant connections between visual and written elements in a structured and significant dialogue.

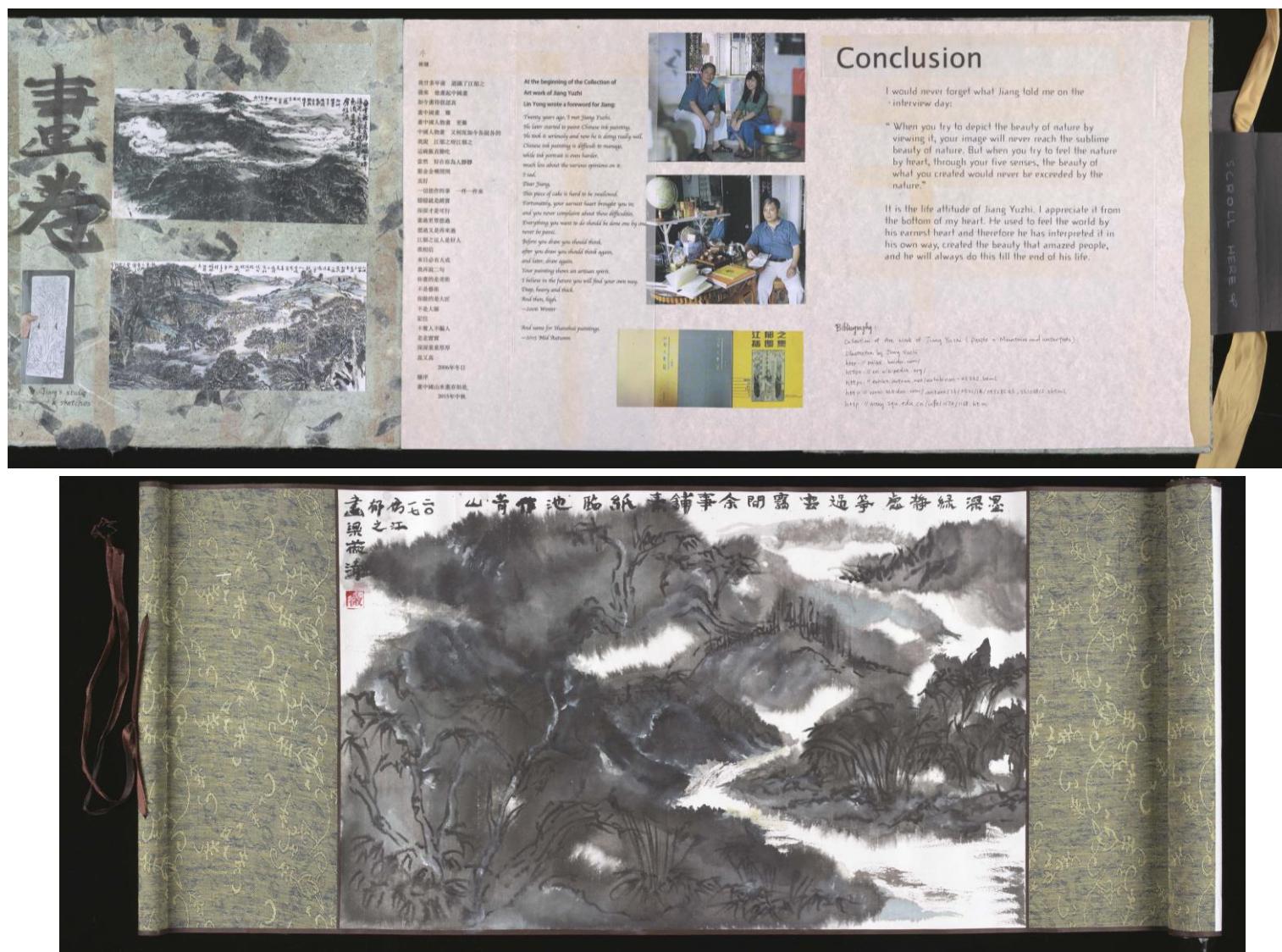
## High-level response

The handling of the materials within the context of the theme is detailed and shows understanding of the primary sources.

Well planned transactions between the learner and the artist are considered and complex, in an independent and individual interpretation.



### Component 3 Personal Investigation



## High-level response

The presentation is personal and coherent showing fully realised research. The outcome shows a well thought out and detailed journey.

The end result is an original handmade book that displays an outstanding ability to investigate and develop the contextual and analytical proposal to an appropriate and personal conclusion.



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