**S:** M, what does it mean to be successful to you?

**M:** In my opinion, success is in your own realm. Constantly comparing yourself with others will set you up for failure. Being successful stems from putting in one hundred percent and being able to overcome obstacles in order to get a finished project that accurately represents the message and image I want to convey. Being successful to me is creating something that someone can look at and see I put my entire soul into. Being successful is showing I have a style and a story that is worth telling.

**S:** Would you consider yourself successful so far?

**M:** I believe the journey to really be a successful artist is a long one and something to constantly be working on. So far, I think I am in the right mindset and that in my own perspective I find success and confidence in my artwork as I challenge myself to keep getting better. I believe some works are successes and some are failures and there will always be times I fail but I try not to be afraid of failure.

**S:** How long have you been creating art?

**M:** I always considered myself an artist since I was a little girl. My imagination was always wild and I loved drawing girls since I was little. I loved the idea of being able to use my imagination to create a person out of my mind. I would get in trouble for drawing on the walls of my house when I was little. I naturally always gravitated towards art.

**S:** Was the art you created in high school different than the art you create now? If it was different, how so?

**M:** Yes. In high school I was incredibly creative with my artwork but lacked any of the technical skills to really successfully construct my ideas. I never had anyone really sit me down and teach me the basics of painting or drawing; I always went completely on my own personal instinct. My art was similar in that I was drawn to color and surrealistic aspects in my work in high school. However, it evolved technically in college once I learned the accurate way to draw and paint figures. I also developed better skills in composition; in high school, I would have too many ideas clutter my artwork and it would be a little disorienting.

**S:** What kind of art do you want to make?

**M:** I want to make art that makes people feel inspired and artwork that creates the same excitement in the viewer as it does within me while I create it.

**S:** How well do you think you respond to criticism of your work?

**M:** I believe I respond very well towards criticism. I would so much rather someone be honest with me about my artwork then just tell me it’s good if it’s not. Accepting criticism is the only way to grow as an artist.

**S:** Does the criticism you receive affect the rest of the direction of your piece or do you use it for a future piece?

**M:** It really depends on what is being said by the critic but in some cases it can definitely effect the direction I go. I’ve had criticism that has unlocked whole new realms of my art I did not know I could achieve. There are so many styles

**S:** What’s your greatest personality weakness and artistic weakness?

**M:** I think my greatest personality weakness is that I put a lot of pressure on myself to be perfect and I can let the stress of wanting to be perfect enough for people get to me. I think that intertwines with my artistic weakness because it can make me fear failing at something. It is a weakness I have had to learn to challenge. Another artistic weakness is being organized and keeping myself to stick to a schedule.

**S:** What’s your greatest personality strength and artistic strength?

**M:** I think my greatest personality strength is that I approach things optimistically. I think my greatest artist strength is instinct. Following the directions of gradients and creating contrast and highlights came the most natural to me.

**S:** What kind of music do you listen to when you’re working?

**M:** I like to listen to music that evokes an emotional response from me. The more emotionally involved I am with a song the more I’m able to carry my emotion over onto the canvas.

**S:** Do you think it affects the kind of work you do?

**M:** I think it definitely can. I think some music can evoke me to get deeper with my ideas behind the concept of my paintings. Music and art are both very emotional.

**S:** What’s your ideal atmosphere when you’re working?

**M:** A sunny day in the afternoon when I have had my coffee and breakfast and slept ten hours and a room with white walls and windows. Also somewhere where people are working around me but I still have my own private space.

**S:** In an ideal world, what are you doing post graduation this May?

**M:** Doing a year long post graduate program for studio art in Florence, Italy and then going to graduate school for art in New York.

**S:** Do you want art to be the single, greatest influence in your life for the rest of your life?

**M:** I think right now it is. I’m not sure where life will take me and if they passion will change for me but for right now it grounds me and drives me and that’s all I need.

**S:** If your mom hadn’t passed away, do you think your art direction would be different right now?

**M:** If my mom had not passed away I do not think I would have matured in the same way and as quick as I have. I’m not sure if I would be as passionate about art as an outlet as I am now. I think grieving over my mother has definitely pushed me to become a better artist—however, I believe either way would have had a passion for art still.

**S:** And finally, what has been your favorite class at BSC so far, art class and non-art class, and why?

**M:** My favorite art class is hard to choose. I’d say between painting with John and advanced figure drawing with Steve. I think I really have felt confident and excited always about painting class and I was challenged in advanced figure drawing but I learned so much from it. My favorite non studio class was a class Kathleen Spies taught about the body and art culture and I learned so much about empowerment, stereotypes, and art that has influenced my thinking in a great way. I also loved modern art history I so much inspiration from the pieces and time periods we learned about.