MARISA COMPETELLO

Q: Who are some female icons that inspire your work?

I think Pina Bausch is a huge influence for me. Georgia O'Keeffe being another one.

Q: How do you describe your personal style?

My personal style is pretty classic, maybe with a slight twist, but I'm real into basics and comfort has also creeped in with my new career.

Q: Do you feel like you see your style in some of floral arrangements or your pieces?

They lean towards being classic but then kind of funky at the same time. I'm definitely into mixing textures and weird colors, which I think translates into work as well.

Q: What are three belongings or objects that represent your sensibilities or ideologies?

Well as of late, I have these beautiful scissors that I use when I'm working. I feel like those pretty represent me or who I am right now. These beautiful brass scissors. They're just special and beautiful and I use them for work.

Q: Do you usually hunt down certain objects for your floral creations?

As far as the tools go? Not necessarily. It seems like there's a lot of basic tools that you have, but I think that's why these are nice because they're also beautiful. Whereas the other ones are just kind of regular every day looking clippers and scissors.

Q: How do you express yourself creatively?

Well, I'm also a dancer, so I think that is a huge outlet for me.

Q: Do you feel like the movement in your dancing as effected your arrangements?

 Yeah. For sure. I mean I think there's no way that they're not influenced by me studying shapes and movements with my body my whole life. I definitely think that they are moving, even though they're still. You know what I mean? You can see movement within them for sure.

Q: Who would you like to collaborate with? And Why?

Well, I did think about a certain female that I would love to collaborate with. It's my friend, Brianna Capozzi. She's an amazing photographer, and I've been dying for us to have a moment to shoot together in some way. I just think it would be amazing. She's brilliant, and it would just be nice to be a part of her vision for a day or two.

Q: Do you have an advice for any young inspiring creators?

 Just do it. Go for it. I think you have to do it with a certain abandon if you're going to do something. This way you're not too much in your head, and I found that very useful. I think that manifesting and seeing what you want is also super helpful.

Q: How do you see your work evolving in relation to social media and digital culture?

 I mean it is created my business to a degree. It's pretty wild. It's such a crazy platform of sharing. That's how I would say 80% of people find me or know even what I'm doing. So it's-Yeah. It's huge.

Q: Has social media taken you and your work in unexpected directions? Do you think that has pushed you to challenge yourself and do things you have never done before?

Yeah, I mean I think it pushes you to a degree as well, because you see the way people react to certain things. If I do something kind of simply beautiful, people like it, but if I really push myself and certain boundaries, it blows up. People really respond to new ideas or ways of seeing flowers specifically.

Q: What kind of flowers do you keep in your own home? Does its change? What’s your favorite?

 I try to keep my office pretty minimal, so I have them around sometimes. Sometimes I don't, because I'm with them all the time. But I like to keep pretty classic, maybe calla lilies, black ones are nice to have around. Or maybe I'll do a lily because they smell beautiful. Or I love, they're called "kangaroo paws". They're a native of Australia. My boyfriend's Australian, and so those are nice to have around for him sometimes.

Q: Do any particular cultures or countries inspire you?

 I would say Japan and Japanese culture. They have the most amazing technique and way of floral arranging, Ikebana, so that's always in my mind. It's minimal and sculptural and thoughtful and just really rad.

Q: How do you plan out or envision any of your floral pieces before bringing them to life?

 Sometimes I have a total vision in my head. I see the silhouette and the combination of flowers beforehand. Then I go to the market and kind of acquire what I need. Then other times, it's a blank slate and I go and I see what's available that day, because every day is different. Then it kind of comes together like piece by piece as I find different flowers that day.

Q: What about vases and other components of your arrangements? Do you go look for specific ones; are there spots you like, what’s kind of your process for finding does components?

 Some vases I use are kind of standard for me, but then I love to use different ceramicists or artists that make vases. I love to source. Vintage vases are my favorite. Like '80s, '90s looking ones.

Q: Do you feel pressure to keep your personal instagram separate from your professional work?

 I think I keep them kind of separate. I have one for work and one for personal, but I do think that people appreciate seeing who you are, even though I've kind of tried to brand it as anonymously as possible.

Q: Would you ever merge the two?

 It's bound to happen, for them to merge, and I'm happy to do so. But I think it's nice to keep a little mystery with work.

Q: Which pieces of yours have gained the most attention?

 I think the ones that gain the most attention are the most insane looking ones that don't even look like flowers anymore. They end up looking like sculptures or just shapes. Yeah, I think the wilder ones are the most well received.

Q: Finish this sentence I am a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 I am a seeker of beauty.