



## 24 Questions with M E R C I

### *“Flowers and Coffee”*

Q1. To begin, are you a coffee drinker? If so, what is your favourite?

Yes! My go-to order is an oat milk latte.

Q2. When did you first begin your passion in your line of work?

I've loved painting since I was old enough to hold a brush, my parents always encouraged creativity. Only in the recent years have I found my style and voice though!

Q3. How did you know that this will become your career?

I've found that being in the creative industry, especially as a small business, nothing is promised to you. I'm not sure if I'll still be painting in 10 years time, or what my career will have morphed into by then. It's all very unsure, I try to take each day as it comes:)

Q4. What are some strategies you adopt when you are feeling unmotivated?

I've been struggling with motivation a lot recently! What helps me is disconnecting from social media and spending time in the garden. There's so much talent and creativity on social media that consuming other peoples content tends to dull my own inspiration, comparison culture is a real kicker!

Q5. Where do you look to find inspiration?

My work is based on my own experiences and feelings, as to how I choose to express them always different and changing. I look towards different types of literature including medical journals, old high school textbooks, magazines. I also get inspiration from the daily and mundane routines and objects, like a tube of toothpaste, or a packet of seeds.

Q6. What is something that people might be surprised to learn about you?

Hmmm I'm a chronic oversharer so that's made me think! As a kid (and in high school) I was obsessed with the circus and wanted to be part of the travelling show. I learnt how to ride a unicycle and do tricks on the diablo, as well as training my dog to jump through hoops.

Q7. What has been a challenge in running your business?

Social media! Although Instagram and TikTok have been invaluable in creating a community, they also foster an unattainable standard of relevancy and virality. I've found myself creating for an algorithm rather than myself, which sucks all the joy out of the process and feels disingenuous, but then if I don't film the process then nobody sees it and.... Ahhhgg it's a catch 22.

Q8. What has been the highlight of your business journey thus far?

Hearing how people connect with my art! I will receive messages from strangers telling me how deeply one of my paintings has touched them, or that they feel heard and seen because of my own vulnerability. Talking to people reminds me why I paint.

Q9. How would you describe yourself in a hashtag?

#overthinker

Q10. What is something creative which you are wanting to learn?

Ceramics! I've actually just purchased my biggest business expense yet- a kiln! I'm so excited to start making ceramics.

Q11. What are your top three business learnings you would like to share?

I don't feel like I've been doing this long enough to give advice anyway..

- be genuine
- create a routine
- find hobby's that you enjoy

Q12. What is your vision and mission in work and in life?

My mission is to express difficult feelings and experiences through paintings so that people feel less alone.

Q13. Who is your current muse/s?

I've been listening to Cubsport on repeat, the feeling I get from their music is what I want other people to feel when they look at my paintings.

Q14. What would constitute a "perfect" day for you?

Waking up early and going for a walk along the beach as the sun rises, getting a coffee from a nearby cafe, then making breakfast at home. It would have to include a picnic somewhere picturesque with my girlfriend and dog, then later going out to dinner and getting ice cream on the way home from a gelato shop. Can you tell I am food orientated.

Q15. For what in your life do you feel most grateful?

For the people I love, and that love me.

Q16. What is your most treasured memory?

My memory is historically terrible! However the day we picked up our dog Oonah from the airport was so special.

Q17. If you could live anywhere, where would it be?

I think Tasmania... I've never actually been but the pictures look amazing and it's filled with such natural wonder!

Q18. Do you have a treasured item in your life? Why is it significant to you?

I think my journals are my most significant items, they catalogue my life in ways that my memory and photographs never could, and allow me to see the ways I have grown and changed.

Q19. Best advice you'd give your teenage self?

Stop trying to please people who don't matter.

Q20. Song you can listen to on repeat?

Come on mess me up - cubsport.

Q21. Given the choice of anyone in the world, whom would you want as a dinner guest?

David Attenborough.

Q22. Do you have any upcoming goals or projects you can share with us?

Nothing crazy, but keep an eye out for a ceramics collection!

Q23. Your views on the importance of creativity in one's life?


I think creativity is one of the most important skills in life! It allows you to express yourself, communicate, and connect. Creativity is what makes being human fun and interesting.

Q24. To conclude, what is your favourite flower/flowers? Why do you believe this flower/s most resonates with you?

My favourite flowers are everlastings, because I have nice memories of picking them with and for the people I love.

M E R C I



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