

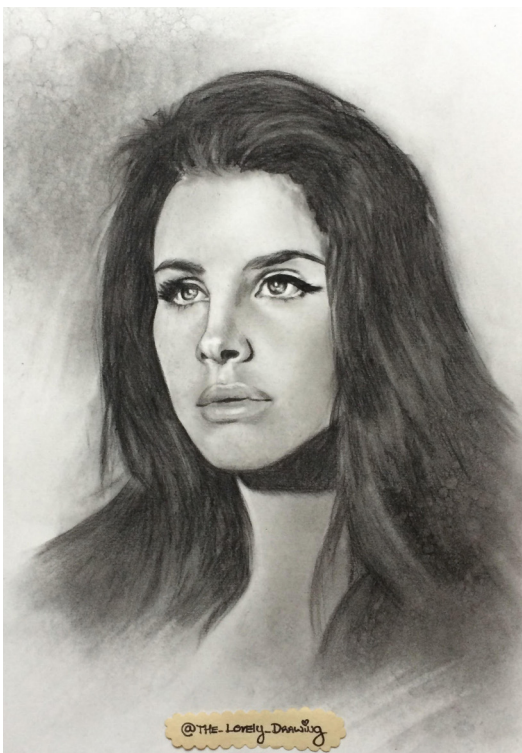
# MARISSA ASAL

INTERVIEW & STORY BY JHANNA SHAGHAGHI / PHOTOS BY MARISSA ASAL

At only 18 years old, artist Marissa Asal now adds “*Attending Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts,*” to her long list of accomplishments in the art world. From being recognized by artists such as Lorde, FKA Twigs, and Melanie Martinez, to having the opportunity to meet with Will Cotton in his studio, to having a fanbase of almost 60k people on Instagram, Marissa Asal is quickly becoming an artist to watch. After personally being a fan of Marissa’s work for years now, I got to ask her a few questions about herself and her work.



Marissa modeling an original by Will Cotton  
PHOTO BY WILL COTTON



ART

## WHEN DID YOU FIRST START DRAWING, AND WHAT INFLUENCED THAT?

I've loved drawing ever since I was two. I would do it just for fun, though. Whenever I was bored growing up, you would see me doodling something. About three years ago (my sophomore year of high school) was my public high school's art show - that made me start taking drawing more seriously. I loved seeing how happy it made everyone. October of 2013 was when I started my art account on Instagram. I saw an art account called @colour\_me\_creative and she had almost a million followers at the time. I figured it would be a great way to share my artwork.

## WHAT/WHO WOULD YOU SAY YOUR BIGGEST INSPIRATION IS?

At the moment, I'm mainly inspired by artists who are significantly better than me. I follow a good amount of talented artists on Instagram and constantly seeing their work is a huge motivator. Some of my fave artists are Will Cotton, Agnes Cecile, Ali Cavanaugh, Casey Baugh, Henrietta Harris, Charmaine Olivia, and Daniel Maidman. They all have very distinct/different styles. I never get tired of seeing their work!

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ENVIRONMENT TO DRAW IN?

90% of the time you'll find me in my bedroom, sitting at my desk, blasting my Spotify haha. I love drawing outside in the sunlight but it's hard for me - I use reference pictures on my phone for basically all of my work and the sunlight can make it hard to see my screen. I'd rather be by myself because I don't like people breathing down the back of my neck watching me draw.

## MANY CELEBRITIES HAVE SEEN YOUR WORK, INCLUDING LORDE AND FKA TWIGS, WHAT HAS THAT BEEN LIKE FOR YOU?

It makes my day when people I have great admiration for recognize/recieve my work - I get butterflies in my stomach and my face gets tingly, (lol). It's my token of appreciation for them. It also makes you more memorable. I'm always grateful when someone takes the time to draw me so I keep that in mind for the people/celebs I draw.