I HAVE TO BE A STUDIO ART MAJOR!

Kayla Burnett is a painting Studio Art Major at Middle Tennessee State University. She also co-owns a bi-international based homemade jewelry business, while her partner is settled in France. Involved in community art events, Burnett has participated with organizing summer art crawls and volunteering graphic design to promote charity organization events on social media that help feed the homeless.

Q: You’re a studio major with a concentration in painting. Why?

Burnett: A really wise mentor of mine stated once that, “I do art because I literally have to.” So I think that following that notion of having to make art, or really anything with that level of necessity goes far past gain for only the sake of enjoyment. For me at least, that is why I have to be a studio art major, because it is a need.

Q: From your online presence which is more important: conveying a message of social consciousness or creating an art object? Or are they inseparable?

Burnett: I do not think that a message of social consciousness and creating art objects are inseparable, but in conjunction are just simply more thought provoking. As much art objects as I have researched and looked at every day, the art that tends to keep my mind going and keep my interest for allotted time, typically always have the promotion of conceptual thought.

Q: Would you explain your thought process behind moving from more traditional painterly media to more mixed media and collage?

Burnett: Because I am constantly learning this way, I try not to use the same material twice. So a material I have once used in the past will not be the first item I use for a work I make in the future. I think being comfortable is a crutch, and sticking to traditional methods to often I find people can seemingly put themselves inside a box. This approach ensures that I will evolve in several areas rather than just one range of existing.

Q: How does the use of text and symbols work in conjunction with forms and color/shapes?

Burnett: I would say that the text would act as the defining factor in my work, it has everything to do with the premises behind my work, which right now is integrating Craigslist “missed connections” posts into a form and adding color to transport this text.

Q: What are your plans for the foreseeable future?

Burnett: Well right now I hope to continue my internship and education workshop job with Turnip Green Creative Reuse in Nashville, TN. With the high potential of going to spend my summer working in Idyllwild, California at an all ages arts camp. And in the next few years, I am hoping to go to grad school for my MFA in new media design & interdisciplinary arts.