

ART LEAGUE

*of the
Chathams*

Upcoming Shows

**Chatham Township
Municipal Building
58 Meyersville Road
Chatham Township, NJ**

Fall Show

Receiving

**Wednesday, Sept. 6
12-2 p.m.**

Reception

**Sunday, Sept. 10
2-4 p.m.**

Winter Show

Receiving

**Tuesday, Nov. 28
12-2 p.m.**

Reception

**Sunday, Dec. 3
2-4 p.m.**

News

Part II of Summer 2023



ALC member Khaya Peluso created this image of "Mona Lisa Eating Breakfast" with artificial intelligence at a recent presentation.

ALC Member Experiments With A.I. and Art

By Linda Kimler

Khaya Peluso's artwork created something of a buzz when she carried it into the Chatham Township Municipal Building for the Art League of the Chathams' Spring/Summer Exhibit. The three-by-four-foot canvas titled "Women of the Empire" was not a drawing, painting or photo, but a work of art Khaya produced using the tools of artificial intelligence (A.I.).



Khaya Peluso with “Women of the Empire,” an artwork she created using artificial intelligence. It is now on display at the Chatham Township Municipal Building as part of the ALC Spring/Summer Show.

This month, in a program jointly sponsored by the ALC and the Library of the Chathams, Khaya gave a demonstration of exactly how art could be created or enhanced using A.I. tools.

Artificial intelligence has been with us for a while. If you’ve used your phone or computer to map a route, send an online payment or have a document adjusted with autocorrect, you’ve taken advantage of A.I. Now, A.I. technology can be applied to artistic creation, and Khaya is thoroughly enjoying this experimentation. The technology and opportunities to use it keep expanding.

“Women of the Empire” shows six women in a graphic style. Each woman wears a different dramatic, angular headdress and a bibbed collar somewhat reminiscent of a nun’s habit from another time. The women, all facing forward, have varying facial expressions. The predominant colors of pink, red, turquoise, and white are vivid against a black background. Using the program Dall-E-2, Khaya typed the words “The Last Emperor, Puyi, synthwave” into the program and awaited its interpretation of the phrase. Puyi is the name of the last Chinese Emperor and synthwave is a music genre. In a few seconds, an image of a young Chinese emperor appeared.

New Members

Please welcome our newest members:

Dr. Robert Butts of Madison is the conductor of The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey and a composer. He is also a photographer.

Jack Masterson of Warren paints in acrylics.

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“When an image turns up, you are prompted to ‘generate’ new variations,” she said. “You can keep doing this – adding variations and then variations to the variations. It can be styles, colors, shapes,” she explains, adding, “The art is there, but you are the vessel. You bring it out. You are the motivation.” It’s almost like cooking, she says. A recipe can be replicated exactly or with adjustments to suit personal tastes.

Khaya likens the process to curating rather than creating art. “I’m allowing the software to do its job,” she said. With her prompts and selections, the emperor evolved into several empresses. For the ALC exhibit, she selected final digital images for Chatham Print & Design to print on canvas. Its title was influenced by “Women of the World Take Over,” an early 1980s song composed by Ivor Cutler.

In her library presentation, besides Dall-E2, Khaya used the generative platforms Midjourney and Stable Diffusion to create new works with her audience. On her laptop, Khaya keyed a prompt into a specific program, and in a few seconds an assortment of images reflecting her words appeared on the screen. Attendees then volunteered their own “prompts.” ALC member Bob Frommer offered “Mona Lisa eating breakfast.” Sure enough, in about a minute, five images of Mona Lisa-type women appeared. Some were enjoying cups of coffee; some were feasting heartily. Another enjoyed a simple croissant. Next, a young boy in the audience suggested “Sponge Bob Square Pants under a rock with no pineapple.” Soon the screen showed variations of the cartoon character sitting under or near a variety of rock formations. “Obviously a few words can have lots of interpretations,” Khaya pointed out.

The use of A.I. also “raises questions about access, ethics, and responsibility,” Khaya said. She showed head shots of beautiful young models. It might be hard to distinguish the images from real photographs, she noted. “In the future, will people be able to trust the photographic record anymore?” Khaya asks. But there are flaws, too. One handsome young man rested his hand near his chin. His hand had eight knuckles. “Still, it’s essential for us to explore and use this new technology,” Khaya believes, adding, “It’s a gift for us to be playing with it here.”

Experimenting with new technology fascinates Khaya. She is pleased with the results so far. “This actually felt a bit too easy,” she said, adding that she wants to push the technology a bit further. “Too easy” is exactly what some critics say about A.I. art, arguing that it’s not art. A disability activist, Khaya points out that some people seeking to express an artistic idea may not have the manual skills to execute it. She gives the example of a disabled person who might have limited use of their hands yet wants to create something. An A.I. platform opens opportunities. “I’m okay with embracing that – the possibility that everyone’s an artist,” she says.

Khaya enjoys painting, but music is her preferred creative outlet. She plays piano, bass guitar and at one time played the French horn. Her true inspiration is guided by curiosity and the interaction of technology and artistic expression. Drawing on those interests, in the early 2000s, Khaya was a D.J. on a live internet radio show presenting combinations of music and discussions of new technology. She currently runs a podcast for the Somerville Toastmasters Club and serves as its vice president in charge of public relations.

A Chatham Borough resident, Khaya is originally from New York City but grew up in Central New Jersey. She has a B.A. degree in Urban Studies from Rutgers-New Brunswick and has done further studies in finance at New York University, as well as in Public Policy Analysis at the New School, and additional studies in business at the University of the People. She has worked in finance and currently works in real estate in the area. Khaya likes spending time with family and friends.

Khaya believes that “A.I. has the potential to revolutionize the art world. Collaboration between A.I. and human artists opens up exciting possibilities. While challenges and ethical considerations exist, embracing the potential of A.I. in art can lead to a reimagining of artistic practices and experiences, transforming the way we create, appreciate, and engage with art.”

For those who want to try A.I., Khaya cautions that prompts remain public on some platforms and the process will not work on an old computer. Some programs are free; others are not. Some will work on a cell phone, but image quality can be reduced.

Interested in pursuing some A.I. creativity on your own? Check out the following: [Dall-E2](#), [Midjourney](#), or [Stable Diffusion](#).

See more photos and get the latest news on league events at the [ALC website](#)

Rachel Novak Is 2023 Scholarship Winner

By Linda Kimler and Ann Frommer

The 2023 ALC Rosemary Howlett Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to Chatham High School senior Rachel Novak.

The \$1,000 annual award is given to a CHS graduating senior who has excelled in the arts and is pursuing a post-secondary program in art.

Rachel was enrolled in the high school’s advanced placement arts program and this year played a major role in organizing the School District of the Chathams Art Show. Three of her artworks were exhibited in the show. Rachel’s work includes paintings and mixed media pieces. Skeletons figure in many of them. For the District Show, she issued an artist’s statement explaining their symbolism. It reads in part:

“Addiction is chaos for all those exposed to it. I wanted to create that sense through my work. Addiction can be a reflection of the abuser’s view of themselves, their life. I represented this idea through the use of a mirror.

“No matter how ‘okay’ an addict may seem to be doing they aren’t their true self when they indulge. As you become aware of this, the more foreign they become. It is like they are



ALC Rosemary Howlett Memorial Scholarship recipient Rachel Novak in front of her artwork.



Artwork by ALC Rosemary Howlett Memorial Scholarship recipient Rachel Novak.

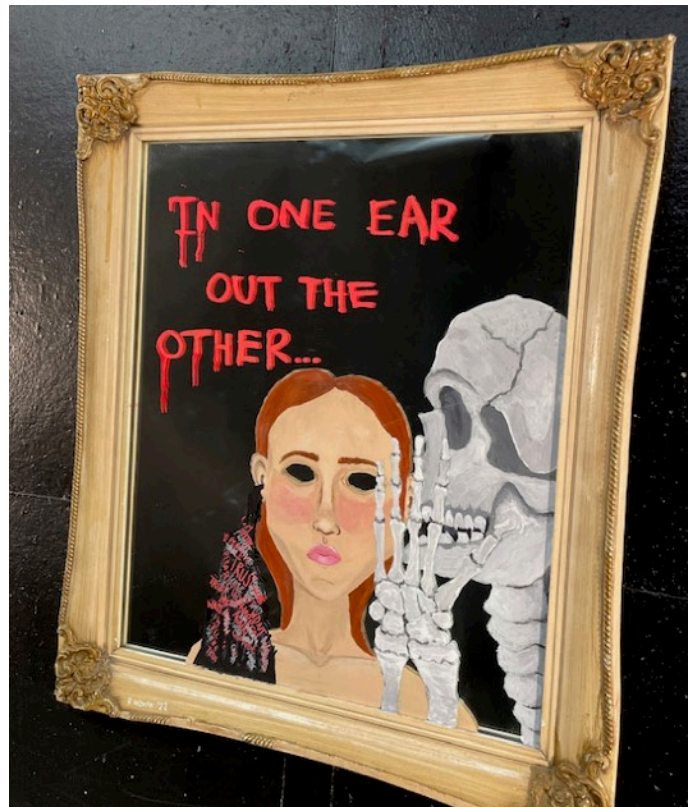
a skeleton of themselves, disconnected from what’s going on right in front of them, only seeing their substance of their choosing.”

Rachel will attend Loyola University in Los Angeles where she plans to focus on Art History and Studio Art with the goal of a career in television production. She chose Loyola because of its location, its school spirit, and, of course, its art programs.

Rachel credits her high school art teachers Candace Hull and Eric Hreha for encouraging her interest in art and supporting her future career choice.

Aside from her love of art, Rachel, who served as president of the CHS National Honor Society, excels in athletic activities. She played lacrosse, ran track and is an enthusiastic hiker.

Funds for the scholarship, recently renamed to honor the late Rosemary Howlett, come from the League’s past gala events and individual contributions. During her term as ALC president, Rosemary was instrumental in establishing the scholarship and sought to ensure its funding by the League.



Artwork by ALC Rosemary Howlett Memorial Scholarship recipient Rachel Novak.

Member News

At the ALC Spring Show:



Margaret Malischak sold the 8x11.5-inch stained glass artwork “Stitchery,” pictured above, at the ALC Winter Show. Margaret donates 100 percent of her stained glass sales to a variety of environmental and social justice organizations. For more information about her work and donations, visit her [glass4good website](#).

Larry Kerner sold three photographs at the spring exhibit “Snap, Draw, Paint – Two Friends Together.” The show in the Lundt-Glover Gallery presented photography by Larry and paintings by Kathy Havens. Pictured below is Larry’s “Mountain Goats – Banff, Canada.”



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Khaya Peluso

Membership

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Khaya Peluso

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Nancy Kingman

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Anne Paule Picker

Lundt-Glover Gallery

Ann Frommer

Showcase

Larry Kerner

Dr. Robert Butts, conductor of The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey and a composer, recently taught a minicourse in classical music sponsored by the Friends of the Madison Public Library at the library. The course covered the period from 1750 to 1820, a period in which the familiar names Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven figured prominently, and their ideas continue to dominate the music world today. Dr. Butts also discussed the influence of other composers at that time, including Antonio Salieri, Leopold Kozeluch and The Chevalier de Saint Georges. The last class was June 27.

“The Guitar Works of Robert W. Butts,” performed by guitarist Stanley Alexandrowicz, is now available on CD. Maestro Butts said, “Stanley is a wonderful guitarist for whom I’ve composed several works. To now have a worldwide release of Stanley performing these works is almost hard to believe.” The CD is available through [Elegia Classics](#) or from [Maestro Butts](#). A full set of mp3 files will soon be available.

Jennifer Duteil has a 21x17-inch watercolor painting titled “Checkmate” in the current Essex Water Color Club exhibit at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, Morristown. The show closes on July 10 with a reception and awards presentation at 3 p.m.

Kathy Havens recently participated in the Members Art Show at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey in Summit with her 11x14-inch pastel painting “Branch Brook Park, Newark.” The show ended on June 25. Kathy also has two 18x24-inch oil paintings, “Sunrise on the River” and “Presby Memorial Iris Gardens,” at the NJ Art Association exhibit at Chilton Memorial Hospital in Pompton Plains. That exhibit runs through the summer.



Yolanda Fundora recently sold 10 pieces of her artwork to a private collector. Pictured above, from left to right, are: “Musical Chairs #8,” “Loading Platform, Cambridge, MA,” and “Musical Chairs #7.” Yolanda donated 40 percent of the proceeds to a women’s reproductive health-care initiative organized by the National Council of Jewish Women of Essex County. All works are 25-inch squares on brushed aluminum DiBond.

Celeste Fondaco recently completed a private commission for a pastel painting of a favorite pet, shown at right. The image is 8 by 10 inches on pastel sandpaper.



June Fisher-Markowitz has joined the American Watercolor Society as an Associate Member. Her watercolor “Coupled” was accepted in the AWS Associate Show, which

can be seen [online](#). June explains that the AWS sets the highest level of watercolor standards and that the online associate exhibit is for those who have not yet achieved signature status. “Coupled,” shown below, also won an award at the New Jersey Water Color Society last year.



Pam Gosner is making and selling jewelry in support of Ukraine. Proceeds from sales will be donated to relief organizations such as Doctors Without Borders and UNICEF, among others. Shown above, elastic bracelets are \$25, and necklaces are \$35. [Email](#) Pam for more information and purchase.

This is Part II of the June 2023 ALC Newsletter. Part I gives details on the upcoming ALC Fall Show and the artists exhibiting in the gallery.