

# Local artists channel the future

By Kate Austin

With the New Year come resolutions, life plans and thoughts about the future. ChathamArts Gallery gets 2010 started with an exhibition titled, "Futuristic," setting the stage with innovative, revolutionary views of the world reflected through art.

On Thursday February 4, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., ChathamArts Gallery hosts a special evening of art, music, refreshments and wine to open the new show, spotlighting futuristic ideas and the rejection of traditional forms.

One featured artist, Marcelle Harwell Pachnowski, uses music and the painting process itself because as she says, "paintings are a mirror of [her] life – heartache, grief, loss, pain, joy, love, bliss, lust, and excitement." Her work is reflective of what it is like to be a colorist in a digital age.

Photographer Elaine Rhoades manipulates her work, combining several layers of photographs to create a single image, an alternate reality. Using a vision from her childhood fantasy of the Jetson's cartoon, she creates her version of the world how we thought the future would be – full of flying cars.

"I can create a vision, just as a painter or graphic artist by using my imagination to come up with a composition," said Rhoades, discussing the use of Photoshop to alter her images. "The night photograph of Darling Harbor was already a good photograph but then I could sit at my computer and go on to create a fun scene ... I could add stars, moons, flying cars, and reflections all with a click of my pen."

ChathamArts' Hillsboro St. gallery is not the only place to view the work of Chatham County artists. Aimed at



Photographer Elaine Rhoades manipulates her work, combining several layers of photographs to create a single image, an alternate reality. Some of her works are part of the ChathamArts Gallery's "Futuristic" exhibition.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ELAINE RHOADES

businesses with a desire for art on their bare walls, ChathamArts sets up local artists' work to be displayed at no cost in what are called satellite galleries. This win-win program allows businesses to have art on display, and creates exposure for participating artists.

"It really benefits the artists, because we're bringing their work to a target audience; people buying new homes, real estate offices, and areas where people are more likely to purchase a piece of art," said Molly Matlock, executive director of ChathamArts.

The next satellite gallery opening is at Briar Chapel March 6, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. One can purchase the artwork displayed there by contacting the ChathamArts Gallery.

To see Chatham County's artist interpretations of the world of tomorrow, visit the ChathamArts Gallery located at 115 Hillsboro St. in Pittsboro, Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and

Sunday 1 to 4 p.m. The "Futuristic" exhibit will run from Feb. 4 until the end of March.

For more info, contact ChathamArts at 919.542.0394, or visit their website at [www.chathamarts.org](http://www.chathamarts.org).

Kate Austin, a senior at Elon University, is publicity intern with ChathamArts.



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