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For Immediate Release

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Visually impaired artist creates winning poster for Choice Magazine Listening contest

Marieke Davis has a similar disability to many CML subscribers

PORT WASHINGTON, NY – A visually impaired artist from the University of Arizona has been named the winner of the first-ever poster design competition held by [Choice Magazine Listening](#) (CML), a nonprofit organization that produces a free audio magazine for the blind, visually impaired, and physically disabled.

A poster design submitted by 20-year-old Marieke Davis was chosen as the winner by the organization's three-member editorial board. The contest was open to students at art schools throughout the country. Choice Magazine Listening Editor in Chief Pamela Loeser said, "What really captured our attention was the artist's use of color and how well she illustrated our messages. That she herself is visually impaired and, of course, eligible to be one of our subscribers was a coincidence, though it ties in very well with our mission."

Winning artist Ms. Davis said, "I was just really excited when I heard my poster was chosen. When I learned of the contest through my school's website, I thought it would be great for me to enter. One of the things I like more than art is to make art that can be useful to people."

Creating art for a purpose, she said, was her main reason for studying Fine Arts at the University of Arizona, where she is now a sophomore. Art has been a lifelong passion, and she has never let her disability stand in the way of her dream of one day writing and illustrating her own graphic novel/series.

Ever since she was 10, Ms. Davis, who hails from Gilbert, AZ, has struggled with hemianopsia, the loss of half of the visual field, a result of three operations to remove brain tumors. For example, when she looks at something, she can only see half of it.

"I've always loved art, even before my surgeries when I was very young," she said. "I've probably been painting or drawing ever since I was in kindergarten—a very long time."

For the winning poster, Ms. Davis used Prismacolor markers and Sharpie pens. The poster took about 12 hours to complete.

"The font took the most time," she said. "I love color. I think I'm very good at blending colors. I thought the poster could be very eye catching if I used a lot of color, but I knew I couldn't detract from the words either."

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Ms. Loeser said CML will send the poster to libraries and assisted-care facilities to let people know about the organization's free service. For more than 50 years, CML editors have been selecting the very best magazine writing from 100 magazines. The quarterly anthology is then professionally narrated and sent to subscribers throughout the country.

"We're very proud to have Marieke's poster represent Choice Magazine Listening," Ms. Loeser said. "And we fully expect that after she's become a famous artist, a story about her will make its way into a future issue of Choice Magazine Listening."

About Choice Magazine Listening

Throughout 52 years of service, Choice Magazine Listening has shared with its special audience the finest magazine writing. Each quarter, CML editors select from 100 magazines the best 12 hours of nonfiction, short stories, interviews, and poetry. These selections are read unabridged by some of the best narrators in the country, and then enjoyed by subscribers across America. The aim of CML has always been to expand the human mind: to inform, entertain, and enlighten. Each quarterly issue is an opus for the ear. See www.choicemagazinelisting.org for how to get a free subscription.

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