Rachel Katz

Born and raised in the Chicago suburbs, Rachel Katz began planning her fashion design career at just nine years old. She quickly took to sewing and her favorite pastime became making blankets and purses for friends and family. This past summer, Rachel helped with the initial development of a product for Kimberly-Clark and is currently assisting in product development at The Airtex Group, opportunities have been integral to her design training. She is now excited to share her technical and creative skills through her line Sababa.

Sababa is an Israeli slang term meaning many things, but most importantly that everything is alright and going to be okay. During a trip to Israel, Rachel saw the beauty of an ever-changing landscape and of in temporary qualities of life. Trying to live a beautiful and in-the-moment life, Rachel worked hard to embody “sababa” while creating her garments. This line is for the male skateboarder that loves life and is not concerned with keeping their clothes nice, just that they work for their purpose and look good while skating. Sababa will be beautiful on the runway but will change as they are worn, torn, and worn again.
Riley Kelly developed a love for fashion at a young age and became involved in theater as a teenager. Her passion for creating clothing and the dramatic arts has led her into the world of costume design. Riley’s design style is a mix of creative, fantasy, and historical costume.

Natural Magic is a fantasy line of theatrical costumes inspired by the five natural elements; fire, water, air, earth, and the universe. These elemental ideas are each distinct but brought together to create every known, natural thing. Each look brings an element to life, personifying its unique, magical qualities through the use of color, texture, and fabric manipulation.

Fire: The strong warrior  
Earth: The keeper of all living things  
Water: The peacekeeper  
Air: The joyful creative  
Universe: The mysterious and all-knowing

Riley hopes Natural Magic will transport the audience to a fantasy world, in which the elements are beings that work in unison to keep the natural world in order, a world in perfect balance.
Maxine Britt (she/they) is passionate about creating work that promotes self expression for people of all genders. Through two undergraduate research projects, Maxine explored her passion for gender neutral apparel by honing in on the needs of transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming people. She is also the founder of the gender-neutral brand Mx Apparel Design which offers androgynous garments with an edge. Maxine’s work as a production assistant for Tessa Louise Design Studio has allowed her a close-up at what goes into running an independent line, from sourcing to manufacturing. The knowledge she gained has been instrumental in running her own business. Maxine hopes to gain more industry experience in creative design, while working on her up-and-coming brand.

Mxtape is a convergence of androgynous retro-futurism with a streetwear twist. The inspiration comes from the comic Paper Girls, which follows a group of 12-year-olds in the late 1980s as they deal with an invasion of futuristic forces. The comic embodies a sense of adventure and empowerment, which is reflected in the line. The Mxtape color story takes inspiration from twilight scenes of Paper Girls with a wash of lavenders and indigos. Maxine hopes that you recognize her work as an important part of the future of gender-neutral fashion.
Mary Xiong is a Hmong American raised by parents who migrated to the U.S. for a better and more stable future. Although fashion design is not highly approved of within the Hmong community, Mary’s strong American identity and values allowed her to pursue her dream career in design. Fashion was her chosen creative profession because there are no restrictions except the imagination. Mary enjoys each and every part of designing garments - from ideating to sewing. Designing never fails to make her more curious and willing to learn. As Mary spent more time studying apparel design, she realized that she wanted to explore the impact she could make in the apparel industry as an emerging Hmong American designer.

Forget Me Not is inspired by Mary’s identity as a Hmong American woman. This evening wear collection consists of mountain-inspired lines and shapes that signify strength in traditional Hmong clothes. Targeting a younger generation by incorporating cultural Hmong elements into modern American trends, Mary’s collection creates affordable pieces for young adults like herself that desire modern Hmong evening wear.
Karolina grew up in Chaska, Minnesota with three older sisters. There was never a dull moment in her household. She has always dreamed of being a fashion designer. While studying apparel design, she worked as a research assistant in the Human Dimensions Lab and an intern in the 3D body scanning lab at Target. Her experience studying fashion design and her experience with body scanning research has led to her to become exceedingly interested in the end-user of garments and how items can affect and help the wearer. Karolina’s passions in apparel design range from ready-to-wear, eveningwear, personal protective equipment, and military/law enforcement uniforms.

Koré is a line for women in the military. Many women in the military become uncomfortable wearing feminine things as they become more entrenched in the military culture. This line is a pathway back to feminine evening wear inspired by the strong female figure of Persephone, the Greek goddess of spring and the underworld. Koré brings soft colors and textures with elements of traditional military uniforms, providing a juxtaposition of feminine and masculine elements in each piece.
Kai Johnson is an apparel designer and biosystems engineer from Colorado, with an interest in developing systems that allow for the sustainable and ethical manufacturing of products. She intends to work in the growing wearable technology industry, allowing her to combine her knowledge of design and engineering to support innovative solutions to logistic, business, and material issues.

This collection, entitled de novo Opera, expresses the idea that value systems are viewed through a personal perspective and built within the context of the works and experiences of others.

The line is designed for young women who view their wardrobe as a daily representation of their personal values. For Kai, this includes environmental and social conscientiousness and expression of an authentic enthusiasm for discovery. She is heavily influenced by Colorado and her inspiration for this line is the scenery of the Rocky Mountains and the music and aesthetics of Queen.

The laidback, adventurous attitude of the mountains enhances the technical elements of outdoor performance-wear and glamorous, professional details in each look. Colorado’s vibrant scenery is further integrated through the blue, orange, and cream color palette, while the unique proportions and surface textures inspired by Queen’s fashion add depth to the pieces.
Ian Harris expresses his creativity wherever he goes. Growing up, he wanted to be an artist and found himself in theatre. Ian credits his high school’s theater department with giving him a foundation for his design work. There he learned to sew while working on costumes, leading him to pursue apparel design. During the past two summers interning at Cake Plus-Size Resale, Ian learned the importance of community-building for plus-sized individuals. His favorite part of each summer was working on the Fat Splash, a pool party for fat folks where the motto is “Sun’s Out, Tums Out”. In his future design work, Ian wants to honor the people he met in the Twin Cities fat community. Striving for authenticity with an emphasis on creativity, Ian is inspired by his favorite female musicians, the 1960’s, and pop culture. A proponent for size inclusivity, he believes that design should bring light and joy to the world.

Moi is a line of bold, bright, and sparkly plus-size separates for all genders. Inspired by fat icons of the past and present - from Miss Piggy in The Great Muppet Caper to Lizzo - and by summertime vibes, this line is meant to remind us that fat is not a bad word. Moi consists of statement pieces that showcase luxe fabrics, textures, and embellishments in interesting ways for the underserved plus-size customer. The person wearing these garments isn’t afraid to be “extra” in the best way possible.
Gina Jostes

Born in Germany and raised in Stillwater, Minnesota, Gina grew up between two cultures that taught her to look at the world from multiple perspectives. As a child, helping her mother create Halloween costumes first sparked Gina’s interest in telling stories through clothing. Once old enough, Gina began designing her own costumes, got involved in local art studios, and interned at JNS Performance Wear.

Over the past two summers, Gina gained international experience and strengthened her ties to her familial culture by working as an intern at Ellen Eisemann in Berlin and at Escada in Munich. After graduation, she hopes to continue to bring stories alive by pursuing a career in costume design.

Combining her passion for costumes and evening wear, Gina chose to create Fabelhaft, a line inspired by the original, darker European versions of popular fairytales. The collection includes stories by the Brothers Grimm and H.C. Anderson including: Cinderella, Snow White, Little Red Riding Hood, The Ugly Duckling, and Sleeping Beauty. Each look seeks to embody a fairytale through luxurious details, rich colors, and lines that create dramatic and elegantly fitting silhouettes.
Warda Moosa designs for the modern modest woman. Through her travels, Warda witnessed the Indian fashion industry as it takes inspiration from its heritage and celebrates it proudly through innumerable decades. This influenced her to peek at her own culture as a Somali and integrate cultural heritage into her designs. As a designer, Warda has experiences in the fashion industry that range from working in the University’s Wearable Technology Lab to working with local apparel brands like Winsome Goods and Anywhere Apparel.

SOMALI BAAN AHAY (I AM SOMALI) is a 2020 resort collection showcasing a different perspective of Somalia; one very few have seen. The main inspiration for this collection arose from a painting by Aziz Osman, a local Somali artist. The collection illustrates Somalia’s rich cultural heritage with modern pieces that emphasize the poetry and bright colors that are evident in the Somali Culture.
Dylan Lumen Osvold was created in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Since early adolescence, he has been obsessed with the intricacies and complications of socializing through the internet. Dylan found the ways in which people exist with technology assisting their identity both fascinating and marvelous. It can be used to hide, to inspire, to magnify, to create. He spent a significant amount of time observing people in digital environments, noting emotional responses to both physical and external digital stimuli. This spawned the idea and driving force of Proprio-Schematic Network, garments that offer the wearer unlimited self-expression.

Proprio-Schematic Network is a line of prototype clothing with motion capture functionality. These outfits seek to accomplish the conflicting goals of giving the body a feeling of a particular weight, hand, and drape, while also falling away from the senses and becoming invisible. Each garment has been created to stand apart from one another in kinesthetic feeling. From fun, full-body pajamas to casual outdoor wear, each is equipped with light sensors, steel topstitching, and a bluetooth module to wirelessly project information of the position of the wearer’s limbs in 3D space.
Abigail Talapa believes that great design is powerful and tells a story in a way that no other medium can. She was first introduced to this power as a young child. After an accident left her favorite blanket in need of mending, Abby’s mom used her sewing skills to save the day. Abby was fascinated by the transformative and reparative qualities made to her blanket, so she asked her mom to teach her to sew. She began to create homemade stuffed animals and, over time, honed her natural gift for sewing. Abby continued to build on her sewing skills in high school and pursued an apparel design degree in college. Throughout her undergraduate education, Abby has strengthened her construction abilities, eye for color, attention to detail, and work ethic. Her design aesthetic reflects the embellishments, earth tones, and subtle beauty of the 18th century. She hopes to work in puppetry and costuming in the future.

Apple Pie is a fall/winter line that focuses on color, pattern, and comfort. Abby developed designs for women who are down to earth and adopt a DIY aesthetic. In creating garments that have movement and versatility, the pieces in this line are meant to be layered and mixed-and-matched. *Apple Pie* embraces a maximalist sensibility by mixing prints, saturated colors, and hand-crocheted textures that represent the autumn season.
Abigail Mitchell began her creative journey in the fine arts, specializing in printmaking and drawing. Her background in both art and apparel allow her to construct specialized garments with distinctive insight and detail. She strives to use natural-fiber textiles and unconventional materials, as well as sculpturally incorporated fabric manipulation techniques to challenge herself as an artist and a designer.

Since childhood, Abigail has sought inspiration from the intersection of the macabre and nature, sensing beauty and purpose in the lurid creatures that others may only react to with fear and disgust. Foul is a largely experimental collection, seeking to honor these creatures and their often overlooked, yet valuable, contributions in their environments despite their looks, behaviors, or negative cultural symbolism. A distinctive creature that holds a “bad reputation” in notorious superstitions, legends, and lore inspires each of her runway looks. Abigail draws heavily upon these creatures’ seemingly odd habits, shapes, and patterns for visual inspiration. Foul expresses the empathy Abigail feels for the darker side of the animal kingdom by embracing their soft natural colors and by meticulously recreating their textures, seeking to destigmatize and celebrate perceived ugliness.
Abby Gardner’s excitement for fashion, creativity, and sketching led her to the world of design. Growing up, she was fascinated with fairytales, make-believe, and “happily ever afters”. Pursuing these interests, she discovered the bridal industry: a place that values both an eye for fashion and fantasia. This past summer, Abby had the opportunity to develop her skills by interning for Tara LaTour, a bridal designer whose expertise pushed Abby’s creativity to new heights. In her own designs, Abby focuses on femininity, romanticism, and color, creating unique pieces that draw from her love of fantasy and imagination.

Kalon is a bridal collection inspired by skyscapes and reintroducing color back into the world of bridal. Kalon is a Greek word meaning “beauty that is more than skin-deep,” an idea that Abby wants this line to represent. Her collection emphasizes soft textures and transparencies to create romantic silhouettes, brings forth whimsical elements, and enhances playful details. Kalon is for the bride who is a dreamer, loves color, and isn’t afraid to create her own happily ever after.
Asiya Youngmark has been designing and sewing clothes since she was a child. She learned to sew from her mother, who sewed her own nursing scrubs. Asiya's multifaceted identity guides her creative process, using her designs to express herself and her identity through clothing. For her, being a Muslim woman and growing up in the United States is at the core of her designs. After she graduates, she hopes to pursue a technical design career within the fashion industry.

Terraform is a women’s ready-to-wear collection comprised of versatile separates. To terraform is to transform a landscape to resemble the earth so that it can support human life. Asiya creates designs that resemble the earth in wearable form. Terraform is inspired by colorful photographic images of Arizona canyons. This collection was created for the modern American Muslim woman, with versatile separates that can be mixed and matched to form a variety of outfits that can be worn to an assortment of events.
Andrea Dunrud’s passion for sewing began at age five through lessons with her mother and grandmother. These early experiences helped to shape her dream of becoming an apparel designer. Andrea’s style is classic with a trendy twist and a preference for natural fibers. She worked as a design intern for Laura Hlavac, a Minnesota designer, and for Kohl’s Department Stores. Through these experiences, Andrea developed technical and creative design skills and showcased her innovative thinking and leadership. While studying abroad at the London College of Fashion, Andrea learned about the dangers of fast fashion and how much textile waste is created by the apparel industry. She researched sustainability and now incorporates it in her work. Andrea’s goal is to be an advocate for sustainable fashion design, leading the industry in sustainable and cutting-edge fashion.

Appalled by the vast amount of clothing and textiles thrown away each year, Andrea used a love of thrifting to create Reduce, Reuse, Restyle. Using exclusively reused garments as her raw materials, she created new textiles and textures by making yarn from t-shirts, fringe from old jeans, and dresses from suit jackets. Andrea wants to empower women to give new life to old clothing. Targeted towards millennials, this unique Fall/Winter line allows women to dress both sustainably and fashionably in their everyday lives.
Allison Pham developed a love for creating when she was introduced to crafting and DIY projects by friends and family. Throughout high school, Allison began to notice the small details in clothes, the meaning behind every garment. Her love for crafting combined with fashion-inspired her apparel design career. After interning at Tara LaTour, Allison realized that she enjoys working with tailored fashion and loves ready-to-wear fashion. Her own work incorporates shapes and structural pieces that fit on the body. She takes inspiration from her surroundings and is motivated to create beautiful clothing in the fashion world.

Victress consists of solid colors juxtaposed with textured fabrics. This line is based on five words inspired by the women in Allison’s life: unity, passion, integrity, courage, and confidence. Victress is for women who want to express their confidence through statement pieces playing to/featuring/spotlighting the beautiful curvilinear shapes of the wearer’s body.