



**Artist:**

Alison Joy Webster/Dunford

**Credentials:**

B.F.A, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB, 1978

M.F.A, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, 1980

**Website:**

[www.ridingthewaveofjoy.ca](http://www.ridingthewaveofjoy.ca)



**Biography:**



*Organic Realms, Window to the Soul*

I have chosen the name “Organic Realms, Window to the soul” for this new series of paintings. It seems to encompass many of my thoughts and sources of inspiration.

“Organic” covers the area of Nature, and “Realms” suggests other worlds, which could include the places where you might find the ‘Little People’ or ‘Fairies’, the elusive world of “Spirit” ....which also leads to the inner “Realms” within each of us, including the Soul.

“Window to the Soul” suggests just that. Each painting is like an opening or a portal into the universe of the soul...my soul...the soul of the viewer....? We are all connected, are we not? We are also individual....Unique. Each of us is a tiny piece of the Universe, and we are all connected by Spirit.

What can transport us to other Realms? For me Music and Nature stand at the top of the list.

Classical Music in particular is and always has been my favourite. One of my dreams with my Art, is to “transpose” Classical pieces of music into colour and form as literally as I can bar by bar as I listen to it, so that the music can be experienced in a visual form (through my filter of course). An interesting way to present a piece of music to a deaf person. I would love to work with an orchestra to make this presentation. This series of paintings brings me closer to this dream.

As a Master Reiki Practitioner, inner reflection is greatly enhanced. This is a strong influence in my work. My focus is on Joy, Beauty and Light.

In the last couple of years I have been involved in a special initiative in Milton working with preschool children. The Milton Community Resource Centre has a wonderful initiative using the Reggio Emilia way of working with children. It is called the ACT initiative (Artists and Children Together). This experience has been particularly special for me in that it has re-activated "The Joyful Child" in me. I never explored the use of mixed media very much in my work, until my experience with the ACT initiative. The love of flowers, plants and "Nature" was always a source of joy.

The idea of making inspirational bookmarks is directly inspired by my work with the children. My first set was made as gifts to them as the ACT initiative came to an end last year. On reflection of my observations of the children it seemed that the perfect next step for me in my own work was to actually include the real flowers, grasses and leaves, in the painting. This "step" has led me to creating this new series of paintings.

A new phase of the ACT initiative is now starting, and I am curious to observe not only the children but my own personal growth in relation to my Art.