

ALISON WATT
naturalist, artist, writer

www.alisonwatt.ca



www.alisonwatt.ca

Address:
23 Hispanola Pl.
Nanaimo, B.C.
V9R 6R1

Telephone: (250) 714-4944
email: alisonm.watt@gmail.com

Education:

MFA Creative Writing, UBC 2014

BSC (Biology), Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C., 1981.

***Awards and Scholarships:* Faculties of Science Nominee for the Gordon Shrum Gold Medal, Simon Fraser University, 1981. National Research Council Graduate Scholarship, (Sciences) 1985/86.**

ARTIST

Represented by the Red Art Gallery, Victoria BC, 2010-2014

Group Exhibits

- Art for an Oil Free Coast (invitational show and book).**
- Metchosin Fine Art Juried Show, August, 2016.**
- Sidney Fine Arts Juried Show, October, 2005.**
- semi-annual group show in home studio 1998-**
- The Enchanted Garden* – a six artist show of botanical paintings at the Maple Ridge Art Gallery, August, 2005.**
- "A Group of Eight" 1982, 1986, 1988, 1992, 1996. (West coast artists which share a background as biologists and naturalists).**
- Four woman invitational Botanical Art show, Hycroft Manor, Vancouver, 2000.**
- University of British Columbia Botanical Gardens, Botanical Art Invitational shows 1990, 1995, 1999.**
- Two person show "The Naturalist's Perspective", Nanaimo Art**

Gallery, 1996.

-Western Wilderness Society Invitational shows, 1989, 1991

My work is featured in award winning book from one of these shows- "Carmanah- Artistic Visions of an Ancient Rainforest."

WRITER

Books:

Fiction:

Dazzle Patterns, a novel, Freehand Press, Calgary, in 2017.

Poetry:

"Crossing," 2016. A handmade chapbook, published by Leaf Press, Lantzville, BC

Poetry: Circadia, 2005. Pedlar Press, Toronto. 89 pp.

Non-fiction: The Last Island – a Naturalist’s Sojourn on Triangle Island, 2002.
Harbour Press, Madeira Park. 192 pp.

Writing Awards:

"Dazzle Patterns" was short-listed for the 2018 Amazon Canada First Novel Award.

"The Last Island – a Naturalist’s Sojourn on Triangle Island" was nominated for two **B.C. Book Awards** (2003): Roderick Haig-Brown and the B.C. Booksellers Choice and won the **The Edna Staebler Award 2003** (a national award for a first or second book of Creative Non-fiction).

Recipient of B.C. Arts Council Grant for a work of historical non-fiction, 2003.

Second place, Subterrain Magazine’s Lush Triumphant Poetry Contest, 2012

Winner of Victoria School of Writing, Post Card Fiction Contest, 2004.

Recipient of Canada Council for the Arts “Emerging Writers” Grant, 2003, to complete a manuscript of poetry (Working title “Circadia”, published fall 2005 by Pedlar Press, Toronto).

Two time Literary Delegate to B.C. Festival of the Arts: 1997, 1999.

Second Place, Prairie Fire Poetry Competition, 2003.

Winner of Subterrain Magazine’s Lush Triumphant Annual Poetry Contest, 2003

Winner of annual Hinterland Poetry Contest, Backwater Review, 1998.

Literary Publications:

-Poetry has appeared in *Event*, *Room of One's Own*, *Backwater Review*, *League of Canadian Poets Vintage Collection 1997/98 and 2000*, *Amethyst Review*, *Cambridge Writers Collective*, *Subterrain Magazine*.

-Prose has appeared in *Canadian Wildlife Magazine*, *Focus Magazine*.

-Contributing editor, *Nanaimo Magazine* from 1994-95. Wrote feature articles as well as monthly natural history column "Natural Pursuits".

EDUCATOR

Artist:

Regular teaching venues:

-Nanaimo Art Gallery

-UBC Botanical Gardens and Milner Woodlands and Gardens (Botanical Painting, Keeping an Illustrated Journal)

-Tofino Arts Council

-Home studio on Protection Island, near Nanaimo B.C., 1996- Adult classes:

"Introduction to Watercolour," "Spring and Fall in the Garden", "Elements of Landscape," "Acrylics I and II, Keeping an Illustrated Journal

-the Gibsons School of the Arts (2015, 2019)

I teach in France every year (Urban Sketching in Paris, Lyon, plein air in southwest France).

*Naturalist/ Ecotour Leader:**

-Hidden Places, Ecuador, 2009/2010

-Quest Nature Tours, Toronto, Honduras, 2001- 2006.

-Maple Leaf Adventures, (sailing) yearly since 1992:

Queen Charlotte Islands, Kitlope River Valley, Great Bear Rainforest, Gulf Islands, Alaska.

