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Spring Has Sprung!

Women On Top Magazine

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"...the online magazine for women 50+"

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The Spring Edition



Jill Alexander & the Obama Tulip

I am a visual artist creating and living in Ottawa Canada with my husband, 2 sons and 3 cats! I am a self-taught artist with a God-given gift, of which I am very proud and for which I am thankful. I did enjoy one very blissful year of formal art education, and graduated with honour.



"Attitude" are my focal point when impatient for warm weather, colour and new life in nature. The combination of vivid colour combinations, sensuous shapes and an extreme close up perspective on oversize canvases, fulfills this need. In particular, my love of painting tulips led to working as an

I began creating as a very young child. My love of artistic expression has continued through a wide variety of artistic and imaginative stages. Pottery wheel throwing, stain glass work, and owner and instructor of 3 businesses in cake decorating, floral design and window painting/wall murals provided the background upon which I built my passion.

In addition, several years as a Michaels Arts and Crafts Superstore class coordinator whose primary job was to work with the vast array of products, demonstrate and teach, rounded out my own unique and custom-made education. The result of this has guided and directed me to my most fulfilling passion of painting.

My transformation to professional artist began in 2001 and developed quickly. I have been honored to display my work on a continuous basis in group and solo shows.

My work is diverse in subject matter, style and technique, my love of vibrant colour, however, remains consistent throughout. Subject choice revolves around the calendar, "Flowers with

official artist with The Canadian Tulip Festival. During these 2 weeks of tulip glory, I enjoy painting among the sea of dazzling tulips and happy tourists!

I draw inspiration from intuition, spiritual direction and personal life experience.

A specific design symbol of swirls holds a fascination for me. It can be found incorporated into my painting designs, my logo and extends to my jewelry and home decor. I seem compelled to work swirls into my abstracts. My "Path to Paradise" series most exemplifies who and where I am at this point in my life. A joyful semi abstract combination with a floral theme. The significance of the swirl represents an exciting spiritual transformational process which began when I committed to life as a full time artist! Unmistakable signs of guidance have presented as if on cue as I travel my path, paying close attention to the opportunities designed specifically for me. I listen and learn from the most amazing group of like-minded individuals who have shown up along my path and I, in turn, do the same for those I meet.

I was honoured to be asked by Wendo Blondeau, Canadian Tulip Festival Sponsorship and Special Events Coordinator, and Julian Armour, the Festival Director, to create a Presidential tulip in honour of Barack Obama's first state visit to Canada.

This tulip focuses on the inspirational and spiritual messages from his Inaugural Speech. *"God Given Promise - All are equal, all are free, all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness."*

"The world has changed and we must change with it." and *"Hope, Freedom, Unity, Liberty, Peace".*

On the base is a quote from Abraham Lincoln, *"That this Nation under God, shall have a new birth of freedom"*.

Portions of Martin Luther King's *"I have a Dream"* speech appear in script on the leaves:

"Now is the Time. We cannot walk alone. All men are created equal, judged by the content of their character."

The story and photo of this tulip have travelled far and wide around the world, thanks to the Internet. ■

Jill Alexander



The "Yes We Can" tulip experience involved one concentrated week of painting, versus the 4-6 weeks usually spent creating the other tulips I have done. The "Yes We Can" tulip is a gift from the Canadian Tulip Festival to the American people.

... the many sides of the Obama Tulip

