

*Artist Janet Fish grew up in Connecticut,  
surrounded by landscapes painted by  
her grandfather, impressionist Clark  
Voorhees of the Old Lyme art colony.*

## BORN TO PAINT NEW ENGLAND

JANET FISH is a tall, imposing, middle-aged woman with a casual, country air. Short blond hair and glasses frame her freckled face. As she strides across the meadow from her Vermont home to her workplace, she could easily be mistaken for a farmer heading for the henhouse. But the sunny mountainside studio Fish shares with painter Charles Parness is filled not with poultry and livestock but a wild assortment of colorful paintings and props — decorative scarves, glittering bowls, goblets and vases of every description, and strangest of all, a small menagerie of stuffed and mounted animals. Here a large gray squirrel, there a lush red fox. A flock of songbirds sing silently beneath a bell jar. And high up on a rafter, a speckled hen roosts eternal.

Janet Fish was born to paint the New England landscape, but she took her time getting around to it. Born in Boston in 1938, Fish grew up in Old Lyme, Connecticut, where her grandfather, Clark Voorhees, had been an American impressionist associated with the local art colony. Though she never met her famous grandfather, she believes growing up among his paintings of local landscapes had a profound influence on her own decision to become an artist. Then too, her mother and an uncle were both sculptors, so culture was an inherent part of her girlhood.

At ten, Fish moved to Bermuda, where her grandfather had also painted. After graduating from the all-girl Bermuda High

*b y* **EDGAR ALLEN BEEM**

*“Poppies and a  
Birdhouse,” 1991,  
where the focus is  
on the foreground  
with the landscape  
encircling it.*

