

Student Essay on Janet Fish Biography

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Essay

Janet Fish

Janet Fish was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1938, and lived on the island of Bermuda. Clark Voorhees who was her grandfather was an "American Impressionist painter" who helped inspire Janet. Janet's father was an art teacher, and her mother, was a sculptor and potter. Janet grew up living with artists and decided to go to Skowhegan Summer School in Maine which was a school that taught painting, sculpture, and other art forms. Later Janet went to Smith College in Massachusetts and studied printmaking and sculpture. She graduated from Smith in 1960, then after collage decided to go to Yale University of Art and Architecture where she got her bachelor's degree for art, then years later in 1963 received her master's degree of fine art. Janet Fish was one of the first women ever to receive a "master's of fine art."

Janet Fish is most famous for her still life paintings, but she sometimes includes other objects into her paintings such as living figures and landscaping in her work. Her paintings reflect her indoor and outdoor domestic life, often containing still life objects from her collections of glassware and other objects. As a student at Yale, her teachers and other students did not always encourage her type of realistic paintings. There was one teacher, Alex Katz who told Janet to follow her dreams, go outside, and just paint the landscaping that she saw. Ever since, Janet has shown her work in many art institutions, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art and at many other shows around the world. She has won awards, including the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award, the MacDowell Fellowships in 1968, 1968 and 1972. Overall Janet Fish has been a very important artist through the years and is still a contributor to the art world and her art will be admired long after her death.