

## RICHARD FEYNMAN, ARTIST

The drawings, paintings and single example of sculpture pictured on these two pages show a different side of Richard Feynman: a strong interest in art he pursued through much of his life. The interest grew in part out of his friendship with artist Jirayr Zorthian; the two men agreed that Feynman would teach quantum mechanics to Zorthian in exchange for lessons in art. Feynman later studied art under Tom Van Sant. The quotations, from *"Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!"* (Norton, 1985), convey in Feynman's own words his feelings about the relations between art and science. The art was photographed by Michelle Feynman, the daughter of Richard and Gweneth.



*"It's analogous to the feeling one has in religion that has to do with a god that controls everything in the whole universe: there's a generality aspect that you feel when you think about how things that appear so different and behave so differently are all run 'behind the scenes' by the same organization, the same physical laws."*



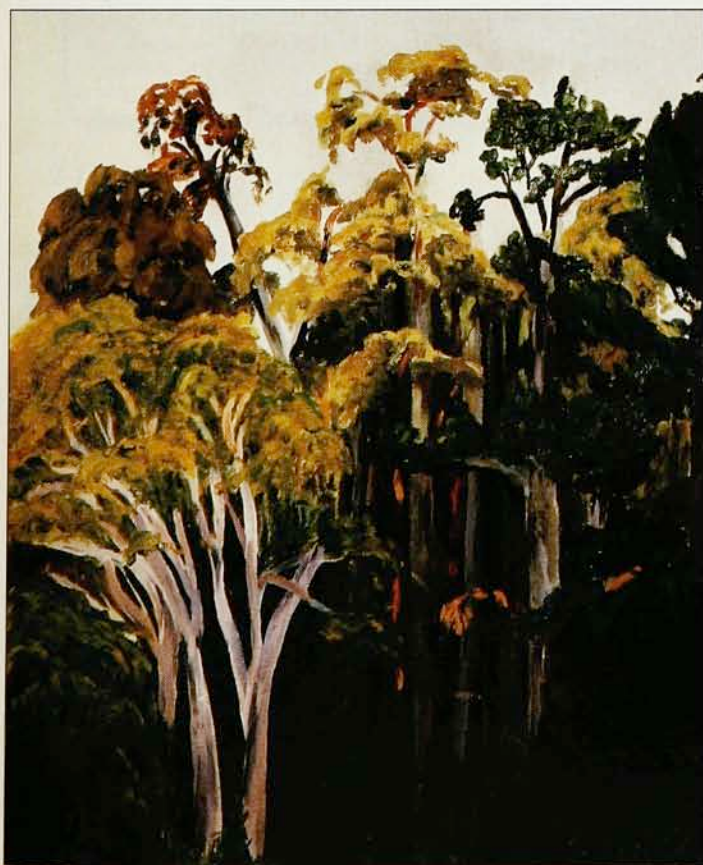
*"I wanted very much to learn to draw, for a reason that I kept to myself: I wanted to convey an emotion I have about the beauty of the world. It's difficult to describe because it's an emotion."*



*"It's a feeling of awe—of scientific awe—which I felt could be communicated through a drawing to someone who had also had this emotion. It could remind him, for a moment, of this feeling about the glories of the universe."*



*"It's an appreciation of the mathematical beauty of nature, of how she works inside; a realization that the phenomena we see result from the complexity of the inner workings between atoms; a feeling of how dramatic and wonderful it is."*



*"I understood at last what art is really for, at least in certain respects. It gives somebody, individually, pleasure. You can make something that somebody likes so much that they're depressed, or they're happy, on account of that damn thing you made! In science, it's sort of general and large: You don't know the individuals who have appreciated it directly."*