since it was founded. I am so rooted in this area. And my sister, uncle, and great-uncle all are or were also artists.”

Heirlooms are everywhere: Jan’s living room sofa belonged to her great-uncle, artist Harold Brett; the rocking chair next to it was made by Jan’s great-great-grandfather; a dining room chest displays a model wooden whaling ship finished and rigged by Jan’s father, George, when he was a teenager.

One wall of the master bedroom is devoted to the framed paintings Jan makes for Joe each year, portraying their favorite experience from the year past. The couple loves to gather family and friends for dinner, so their latest home addition, two years ago, expanded the dining room (which can now seat 16) and upgraded the kitchen.

A loft above the living room serves as Jan’s library. An entire section of it is devoted to Norway, another to the Arctic, yet another to books on coins, which Jan delved into for her latest book, *Hedgehogs Off.* “Small nuances make things real for me and for the reader,” Jan says. “I try to include visual