



NEW WORK: Marlborough artist Joannah May with giraffes and moongazing hare

16992/11 NEIL SAINSBURY

## A moongazing hare

ALMOST before the paint was dry on the latest work by Marlborough-based wildlife artist Joannah May, the £3,000 painting of a hare was snapped up by an American couple.

Miss May took between 60-70 hours to complete the painting she has called Moongazing Hare.

It completes a triptych of hare paintings following on from Stargazing Hare and Hare in The Moon that were all painted over the last two years.

The artist has a fascination not only with hares but with all wildlife.

Her career started as a book illustrator and some of her animal paintings are so lifelike they could well be mistaken for photographs.

But it is her hare paintings that she is probably best known for. She painted her first hare more than four years ago after nurturing the idea for about seven years while working as an illustrator.

Owls were another instant hit with buyers.

Some of her earlier work showed hares in various landscape settings on the Marlborough Downs. Her latest painting, Moongazing Hare, is of a hare with a white horse behind, like the two other paintings in the series.

Stargazing Hare showed the animal with the Uffington White Horse in the background with constellations clearly showing in the night sky.

Hare in the Moon showed a hare with a huge full Moon over the Hackpen Hill White Horse at Broad Hinton. The legendary "hare in the Moon" shadow shows clearly on the Moon.

Her latest painting to complete the set of three shows a hare in a harvested cornfield with the Moon and two constellations over the Hackpen white horse.

"This was the first time I had deliberately set out to do a painting to complete a triptych." She said she was hoping customers would be tempted to buy sets of the three prints to be displayed together.