

Artist's work in London show



HARE AND HILL: Artist Joannah May and her Star Gazing Hare, at her studio in Marlborough (8901-01/CWK)

WILDLIFE artist and illustrator Joannah May has had her work accepted for a second year for the annual exhibition by the Society of Women Artists.

The exhibition opens today in the Westminster Gallery in London and runs until March 20.

Ms May has worked from her Studio Gallery in Hughenden Yard off Marlborough High Street for almost 18 months.

She specialises in painting hares and her detailed work is so precise it has a photographic feel about it.

Last year she had four paintings accepted for the Society of Women Artists' exhibition.

This year she has submitted just one, called Star Gazing Hare.

It shows a hare in a stubble field with

the Uffington white horse in the background and the Plough constellation visible in the sky.

Ms May, 37, has spent years studying hares, watching them in the wild and, sadly she said, examining dead hares at the roadside.

The £2,950 painting on show in London was the result of between 60 and 70 hours' work, largely in her gallery.

She said: "I completely made it up in my imagination but I did use photographs of Uffington I had taken last summer."

Ms May has discovered a naturalist in Somerset who shares her love of hares, Tony Holley, who she plans to meet soon.

"He has spent 28 years studying hares as a hobby and even has a PhD in the study of hares," she said.