

## Mystic scene set in Marlborough



ON TV: Joanna May with one of the paintings in her portfolio of African wildlife paintings (20402/1)

# Artist's hares stars of BBC Springwatch

**WILDLIFE** artist Joanna May has just had one of the most successful exhibitions of her career so far.

And the Marlborough artist has not only had a successful showing in Burford, selling a number of her paintings, but has also appeared on TV.

Ms May, who has had her gallery in the High Street for five years, had her work featured on the Springwatch series with presenter Bill Oddie.

The former book illustrator has become well known for her paintings of hares and that was the aspect of her work featured on the programme.

Cameras filmed her in the back garden of her

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Cotswold home where she can look across the arable fields and see wild hares.

Currently she is working on a series of 12 paintings linking hares with the signs of the zodiac.

Historically, she said, there had been a folklore mysticism about hares not only in Britain but also in a number of other cultures worldwide.

The zodiac paintings each feature a hare over a part of the Wiltshire countryside with the appropriate constellation in a night sky behind.

Her Gemini painting shows a running hare

against a night sky above the slumbering town of Marlborough with illuminated windows in the town centre buildings and town hall, and St Mary's Church clock with its illuminated dial. It is the painting featured in the TV wildlife programme.

She has so far sold six of her original star sign paintings, some of which are still at the design stage. Each commands an asking price of £8,000.

Ms May said: "The BBC are talking about me doing something again next year to be called Seasonal Snapshot."

The children's series will show how an artist plans and constructs a painting.