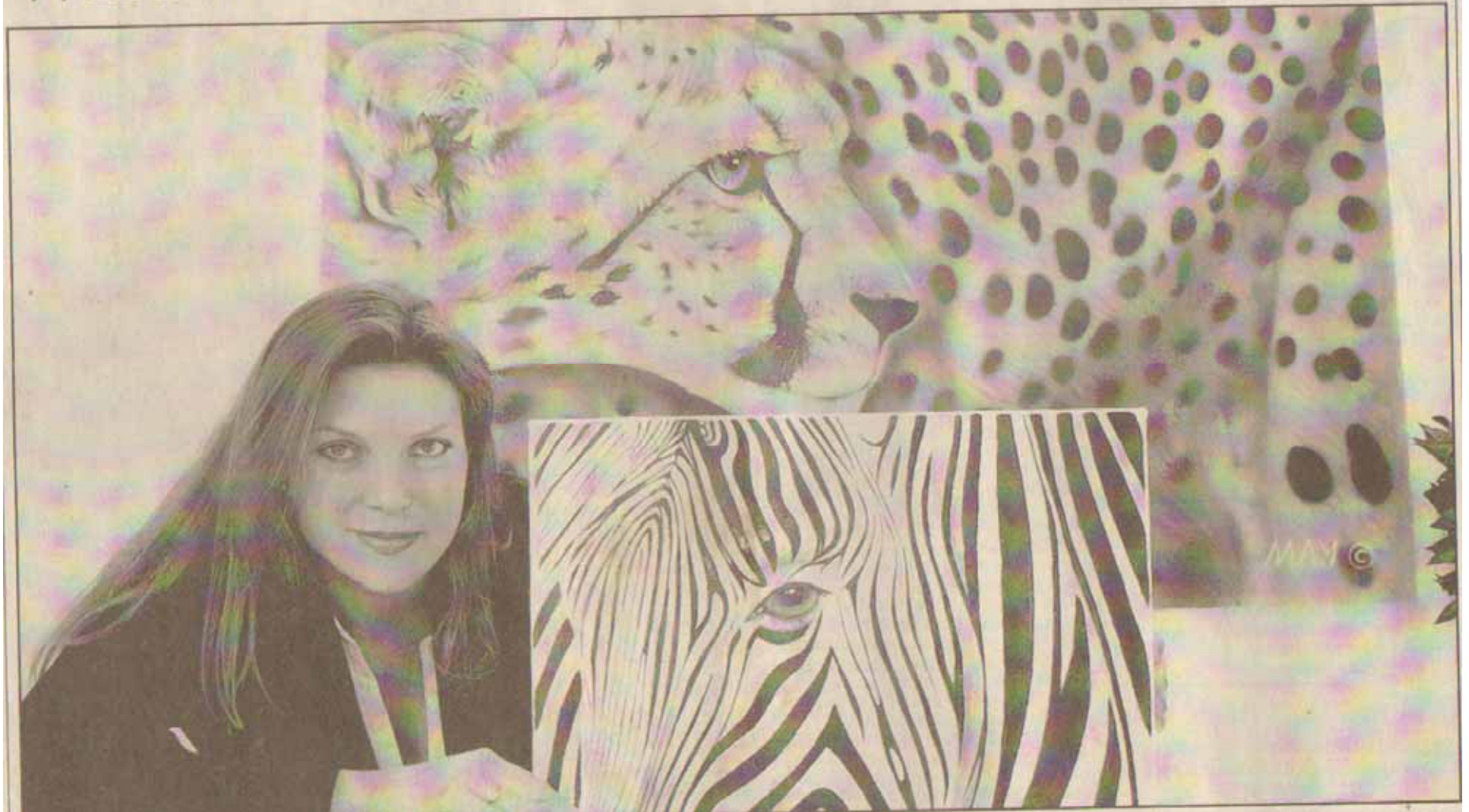


Wildlife artist branches out to Africa



SPOTS AND STRIPES: Artists Joanna May displays some of her eye-catching paintings of African wildlife (15658/1/CK)

WILDLIFE artist Joanna May is finding new success with lifelike and almost life-sized paintings of African wildlife.

Miss May, who runs her own gallery in Hughenden Yard off Marlborough High Street, is already acclaimed for her paintings of British wildlife.

Now her collection of owls and hares have been joined by giraffes, zebras and leopards.

Two of her latest zebra prints were auctioned at Christies last week. They normally sell in her gallery for

\$900 but at the Art for Life auction in aid of Cancer Research they made \$2,800 and \$2,000.

On April 13 radio DJ Mike Reed will be the auctioneer at a Gerald Durrell evening at Gallery One in Barnes, London, when another of Miss May's paintings of a zebra will go under the hammer.

The auction is in aid of the Gerald Durrell Foundation which helps save wildlife in many parts of the world.

Miss May said 50 per cent of the sale price of the painting will go to

the foundation. "I gather it will be enough to save one species for another year," she said.

The species she has chosen to benefit is the Livingstone fruit bat found on the Comores islands between Madagascar and the African mainland.

Miss May will have about ten paintings on show at Gallery One from April 15-30. She said: "They will all feature African wildlife with the surprise of a link to the British wildlife and the work I have done before."

Her wildlife paintings have won national recognition and she has recently been asked by the BBC to appear on a show with birdwatcher Bill Oddie.

To learn at first hand what the African wildlife is like in the wild, Miss May spent a week on safari in the Kruger National Park in Africa.

She was able to get to within feet of big cats and other wildlife and said: "There is nothing like witnessing the beauty of them and their movement in the wild."