



And the corgis came, too



NICKY PHILIPPS'S portrait of The Queen was unveiled last week and forms the centrepiece of her solo exhibition at Fine Art Commissions, which opens today.

Miss Philipps (*Favourite Painting*, page 90), who also produced the relaxed image of Prince William and Prince Harry that now hangs in the National Portrait Gallery, was commissioned to paint The Queen last year by Royal Mail—the portrait features on a stamp to mark the 60th anniversary of her Coronation.

Miss Philipps went to three sittings in the Chinese Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace last autumn, where she had the idea of adding the corgis and dorgis—dachshund-

Above: Julian Calder's photograph of Nicky Philipps in her London studio with the finished portrait of The Queen and the preliminary sketch. Below: One of Miss Philipps's exquisite flower paintings, Agapanthus



corgi crosses—to the portrait. 'I soon realised that I would have to include them all,' she explains. 'The Queen is clearly not a one-dog person—she always has a pack with her. Two of anything never works and I couldn't do three and leave one out!' The final result was the inclusion of (left to right) Willow, Vulcan, Candy and Holly.

The exhibition of her exquisite still-life and flower paintings, plus portraits, runs until June 28.

Fine Art Commissions (020-7839 2792; www.fineartcommissions.com), 34, Duke Street, London SW1, is also selling Julian Calder's book, *Keepers: The Ancient Offices of Britain*, which is about historic royal traditions.