

“It was a dream commission... The Queen has the most infectious laugh, and I had an incredibly interesting and amusing time despite the ferocious pressure of only three one-hour sittings. I included the dogs in reference to the less formal part of the Queen’s life.”

Nicky Philipps

In Nicky Philipps's painting, the Queen is shown accompanied by her four dogs: corgis Willow and Holly and dorgis Vulcan and Candy.

2013

Nicky Philipps

Nicky Philipps (born 1964) paints portraits and still lifes which can be compared with those of John Singer Sargent in their freshness of application and clarity of drawing. She shot to fame with her 2010 portrait of HRH Prince William and HRH Prince Harry, commissioned by the National Portrait Gallery.

Philipps's magnificent full-length portrait of the Queen was specially commissioned by Royal Mail to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's coronation, with the cropped version appearing on a new special 1st class stamp. Three sittings were granted in the autumn of 2012, with the painting being completed over the following months.

The full portrait shows the Queen in Garter robes standing in a sumptuous palace interior. There is a confidence about the painting which suggests an uncomplicated trust in the institution of the monarchy. The elements of the image sit together naturally and comfortably: the features of an elderly sitter, accurately described; the splendour and tradition of Garter robes and gilt-wood furniture; the humour of circulating corgis and dorgis. The portrait seems to express the joy and quiet satisfaction at the conclusion of a magnificent Jubilee year.

