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Competition', again at the Mall Galleries. More recently, in 2004, she exhibited at Chome Fine Art, Bath, and with the SEA at Palace House, Newmarket, as well as taking part in Dorset Art Weeks 2004.

#### Virtuoso sketchiness

Look at that painting, 'A Couple of Hounds'. The hounds have been caught doing what hounds do – having a good sniff at things. Their poses are spot on. They are, above all, natural. Now look at the stuff of which the image is made, the paint itself. There is a kind of virtuoso sketchiness here that underlines the good drawing, a fluent handling that somehow catches the shifting pattern of appearances. There is a feeling that the artist enjoys both her subject and the scrumminess of the paint itself, its qualities and viscosity. The brushstrokes seem spontaneous, adding to the overall feeling that you are looking at a snapshot of a moment. Constable wrote: 'Painting is but another word for feeling.' Well, what you have here brought vividly to life in Katie's sonorous paint is the bond of affection between the artist and her subject, a bond that is empathic yet clear-eyed and devoid of the faintest whiff of sentimentality.

For Katie, life back in rural Dorset has meant a return to country life. She rides as often as she can and hunts from time to time. She works from a 'studio' most days – a cluttered room at the back of her cottage – where she paints from sketches and photographs. 'It's intense, draining stuff,' she says, 'and I only work for an hour or two at a time. I'll have a break. Play the piano. Listen to music. If my head is full of clutter I'll take myself off up Hambleton Hill. I seem to get energised up there. I know one thing, I am determined to make it, really make it, as an artist.' □

For more examples of Katie's work, visit her website [www.katiescorgie.co.uk](http://www.katiescorgie.co.uk)

**Opposite page top** *A Couple of Hounds*; oil on board  
**Bottom** *Round The Bend*; charcoal on paper  
**This page above** *Approaching The Next Obstacle*; oil on board  
**Right** *All for One*; oil on board  
**Below** *Head On*; oil on board

