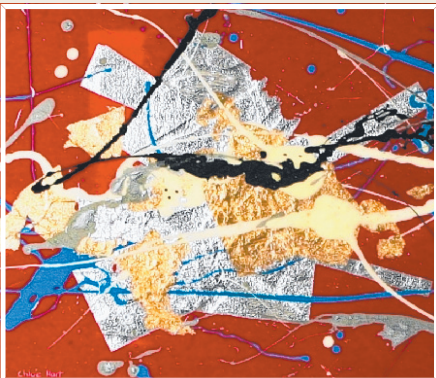


Pro Hart's famous carpet stain advert



Grandfather Pro started the tradition



Chloe's works show hints of her heritage



Chloe Hart has been selling her artworks since she was 11

# Oh Chloe Hart, what a mess!

**BRIANA DOMJEN**

HER grandfather, Pro Hart, was a legendary Australian artist known as the father of outback painting.

And at 16, Chloe Hart is following in his footsteps, carving out a successful career as a painter.

The talented high-school student has already made a tiny fortune from the sale of two dozen paintings — the first when she was just 11.

"My first painting I sold was a beach painting. Since then I have sold about 24 paintings. It's good to be able to let out all my creativity through art," the teenager said.

"There are a lot of artists that have inspired me over the years — my dad, my grandfather and some of the other greats whose paintings I've grown up around," said

**“It's a very good outlet. It's good to be able to let out all my creativity through art.”**

Chloe, whose father is also a renowned artist and gallery owner — David Hart.

While she is proud to be continuing the family tradition, her style is distinctive — abstract, bright and dynamic, different from her grandfather's rural landscapes and colourful

depiction of Australian life, such as miners at work.

Savvy investors are quickly snapping up her paintings, predicting they'll be worth a lot more than

\$990 each in 10 years.

But it's not always easy for Chloe, who attends Suncoast Christian College on the Sunshine Coast, to find time to paint.

"A painting can take anywhere from a few weeks to a few months to complete," she said.

"I paint when I can. Holidays are usually the easiest because I don't have homework but I do like to go down to my studio after school sometimes when the workload's not too bad."

While Chloe sold her first work at a tender age, her grandfather had to wait much longer to find fame. Pro Hart was discovered in 1962, when he was 34.

He became a household name when he starred in a television commercial. The colourful artist created a wine and spaghetti painting on a carpet — only for a cleaning lady to exclaim: "Oh Mr Hart, what a mess!" and wipe it all off.

# Police feared worst

**BRENDEN HILLS**

POLICE warned a Sydney teenager would commit "further violent" sexual offences on women six months before he allegedly murdered a woman.

The warning was issued in a police fact sheet tendered at a September 2010 court hearing of a man when he was charged with possessing a folding knife in northwestern Sydney.

Police alleged that the then 18-year-old used the knife in two violent sexual assaults in the space of one week in Meadowbank in 2009.

He was arrested and charged on November 20, 2009, with inflicting actual bodily harm with intent to have sexual intercourse with a woman.

But authorities released him after the sexual assault charge was dropped when the alleged victim decided she did not want to proceed with the complaint. Police pursued the knife charge and in September he was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$79 court costs and released.

He was subsequently arrested and charged with murdering a woman.

He was refused bail and the matter will appear in court later this year.

During a court hearing for the 2009 knife charge, police submitted fact sheets which warned that the teenager was a violent offender.

They said he was likely to commit further offences if released. "The accused has committed violent sexual offences in a short space of time in the one street at the same time exactly one week apart,"

the fact sheet said. "The accused is a violent and dangerous offender who will commit further violent offences on women if granted bail."

Police alleged he had used a black handled Gerber folding knife in two sexual assault attacks. The fact sheet also said police searched the teenager's apartment and "a number of items were located significant to two sexual assault offences".

The matter made it to the Sydney District Court after 12 court appearances before

**“The accused ... will commit further violent offences on women”** FACT SHEET

the sexual assault charge was discontinued. A spokeswoman from the Department of Public Prosecutions said the matter was "no billed" because the victim did not want to proceed with the matter.

The department spokeswoman declined to comment any further, including why the woman decided not to proceed with the complaint.

A Department of Corrective Services spokesman said the man had been held on remand for nine months until being released in September, the day after the sexual assault charge was dropped.

A police source said the result was frustrating: "If the complainant doesn't want to pursue the complaint there's not much that can be done, he has to be released."

## Rare but real threat

THIRTEEN amateur football players — seemingly fit and healthy young men — have dropped dead during games or at training in the past 11 years.

And though the state's top heart doctors say that sudden cardiac death is rare, they say a more rigorous screening program could save lives. Cardiac arrest and pre-existing heart conditions were the causes for the majority of those deaths since 2000, with the average victim aged 23.

MonashHeart director Prof Ian Meredith said all young athletes, not just footballers, were at risk.

Prof Meredith said: "Both the US and Italy run screening programs for high school athletes. There's certainly evidence they do help to reduce these rare but life-threatening events."

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