



Hilton owner Jerry Schwartz (left) commissioned David Hart to paint a new version of a work done by his father, Pro Hart, more than 30 years ago.

PICTURE: JASON O'BRIEN

'HART'-FELT ART A SIGN OF TIMES

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A CHANGING Gold Coast skyline has led David Hart, the son of renowned Australian artist Pro Hart, to pay homage to his father's legacy.

Pro Hart, who died in 2006, painted a cityscape of Orchid Ave at Surfers Paradise more than 30 years ago. New Hilton owner Jerry Schwartz, a big fan of Hart's work, recently secured the original piece but there was a problem – his new pride and joy was missing from the skyline.

"The man who sold me the painting knew David and suggested I commission an updated version of the painting which included the Hilton, which I did," he said.

David said while the paintings intentionally looked similar, he put his own touches on his dad's masterpiece.

"Painting this has made me realise how much the landscape has changed, it was a really interesting concept – a piece from the same angle, from the next generation," he said.

Dr Schwartz had his first look at the new piece yesterday and was delighted by the finished product.

"It's fantastic, you've got the old and the new, the father and the son," he said.

With more changes to the city inevitable, Dr Schwartz has already flagged the idea of a third painting in a few decades' time, by David's son Harry, 20, to continue the family tradition.

"It's definitely a possibility if he's willing," he said.

The two artworks will be in the new executive lounge when it is relocated.