

# Art wears well in Korea

By **CARLY REES**

**WHAT** do you get when you cross an artist with a fashion designer?

An amazing dress and a stunning new painting.

Sunshine Coast artist David Hart saw his art come to life recently when he teamed up with South Korea's most famous fashion designer, Lie Sang Bong, who has worked with celebrities such as Lady Gaga, Rhianna and Hugh Jackman.

The collaboration launched Mr Hart's paintings to the South Korean market during an exhibition at the Grand Hyatt in Seoul.

"I told him I wanted to do something that was fun and he loved the idea," Mr Hart said.

He created a painting that reflected one of Mr Sang Bong's outstanding dresses.

Mr Sang Bong created a dress inspired by Mr Hart's art.

Mr Hart's wife, Christine, wore the dress to the launch and was thrilled when the artist presented it to her.

Some of his designs sell for \$10,000.

The dress is now on display at Mr Hart's Mooloolaba gallery while the painting hangs in Mr Sang Bong's showroom. The collaboration continued with South Korean baritone Kyoung



**GRAND DESIGN:** David Hart with wife Christine.

Jung singing five songs - each reflecting a different one of Mr Hart's paintings.

The Sunshine Coast artist put the success of the event and the enthusiastic reaction from South Korean art lovers down to hard work and establishing a connection with the country's people.

He has already spent years building connections in China, where he has already cemented his name.

"It is hard work but it has been good and I have made some great contacts," Mr Hart said. "You can't expect to just go into places and be an overnight success."

He said the next step was to continue to establish his name in South Korea.

"They have some of the best art museums in the world with a strong art-lovering culture," he said.



**ART OF FASHION:** Artist David Hart with a dress inspired by one of his paintings and designed by Korean Lie Sang Bong.

PHOTO: BRETT WORTMAN