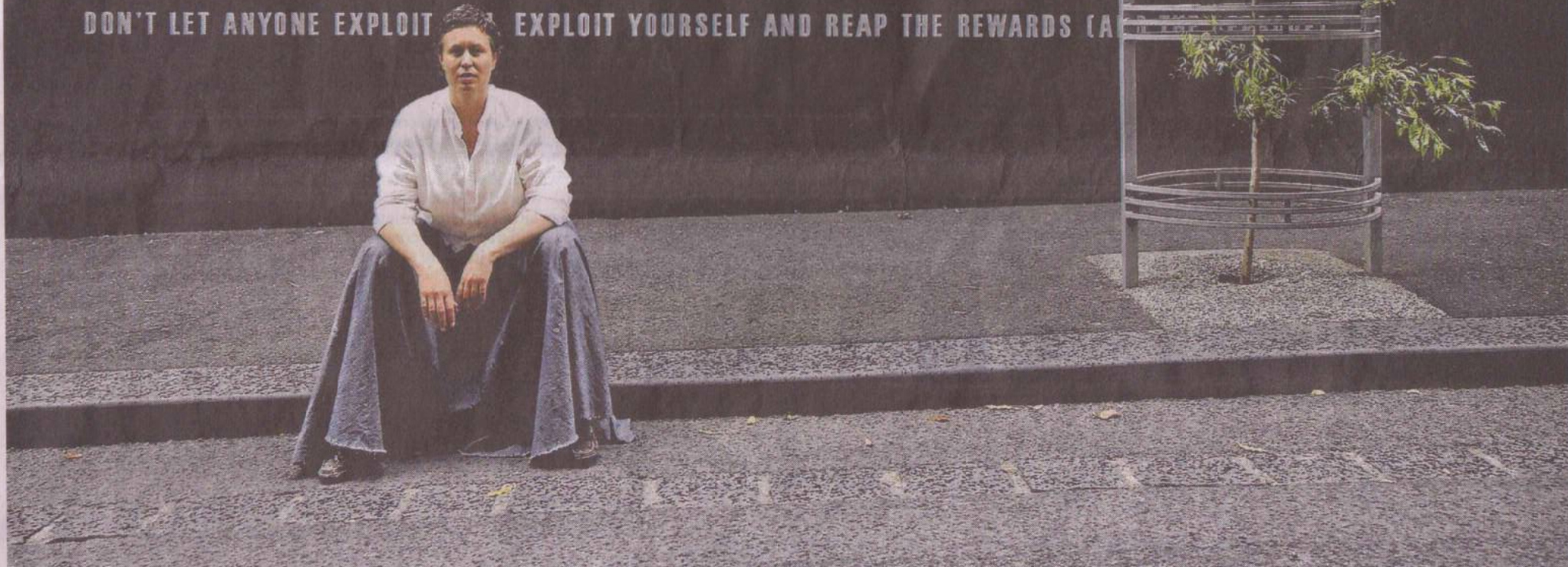


BE A 'BAD GIRL'. GOOD GIRLS DO WHAT THEY'RE TOLD. BAD GIRLS DO BEST WHAT THEY'RE TOLD NOT TO.  
BE HONEST IN YOUR ART. EVEN IF IT HURTS. YOUR ART WILL BE STRONGER. IT WILL ALSO BE REMEMBERED.  
RISK EVERYTHING. BETTER TO FAIL AND MAKE A SPECTACLE OF YOURSELF THAN TO MAKE NOTHING.  
ALWAYS BE IN CONTROL. NEVER GET WASTED AROUND ANYONE WHO WANTS SOMETHING FROM YOU.  
DON'T SMILE FOR PHOTOGRAPHS JUST BECAUSE IT'S EXPECTED. ACTUALLY, DON'T DO ANYTHING AS EXPECTED.  
ALWAYS REFUSE SEX WITH AN ART DEALER. YOU WILL ONLY EVER BE SLEEPING YOUR OWN WAKE-UP CALL.  
YOU CAN'T WIN AS A WOMAN IN THE ART WORLD. MEN INVENTED IT FOR THEMSELVES. SUBVERT AND DESTROY IT.  
DON'T COMPLAIN WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH. GET TOUGHER. OR GIVE UP. PLENTY MORE CAN COME FROM THERE.  
WRITE ABOUT YOUR ART LIKE YOU MEAN IT. LEAVE ART-SPEAK TO NON-ARTISTS AND WANKERS.  
DON'T LET ANYONE EXPLOIT YOU. EXPLOIT YOURSELF AND REAP THE REWARDS (AND THE CONSEQUENCES).



The confronting artist Hazel Dooney in Melbourne's Royal Lane. "I'm not trying to make slogans," she says. "I'm trying to have a real conversation. In bite-sized pieces." Photo: ANGELA WYLIE

# Women should take note - the writing's on the wall

CHRIS JOHNSTON

The edgy artist Hazel Dooney says that although lord mayor Robert Doyle, who commissioned her to paint a laneway wall, was "completely trusting", some behind the scenes at the City of Melbourne were not.

"It was nerve-racking for them," the Brisbane-based artist says. "I'm clinically insane and have made sexually explicit work. I understand why they were a little bit nervous."

Dooney, 34, has had bipolar disorder since she was 16. Despite that, by 2007 she was selling her trademark hyper-coloured enamel paintings for more than \$20,000 through Christie's in London. And she was the only female artist under 30 with work held

by the famous auction house. This year she was supposed to have three big shows of new work in Melbourne, Sydney and Los Angeles, but in April admitted herself to a psychiatric hospital.

Her father died and she was creatively stuck. She had also published an extraordinarily brutal and cathartic essay called *Broken* detailing the "manipulative paedophile" high school teacher who seduced her in year 11 and introduced her to drugs. This, she says, ended in depression and an eating disorder.

Dooney blogs and tweets, and Cr Doyle read a blog entry about wanting to do public art for local governments, and got in touch with her. Her blog can often be what is termed "Not Safe For



Web



iPad

Watch the interview with Hazel Dooney

Work" on account of Dooney's uninhibited sexuality. "The bit I read was certainly safe for work," he says.

Cr Doyle says he is a fan of Dooney's work and once unsuccessfully bid at auction on one of her highly sexual, anime-influenced *Dangerous Career Babes* paintings.

"I'm not an art critic, but hers is challenging and provocative work," he says. Negotiations for the Melbourne piece took a year, but it was finished

last week in Royal Lane, off Bourke Street. It is a text-only mural called *Ten Dicta For Young Women Who Are Artists* - a list of 10 rules, created by Dooney but painted by two Melbourne sign-writers over 10 days.

"I'm not trying to make slogans," she says. "I'm trying to have a real conversation. In bite-sized pieces."

Public spaces are dominated by advertising, she says: "Especially ads targeted to women, which are dishonest and make women feel lonely."

Dooney's proudly feminist "dicta" include the dogmatic ("You can't win as a woman in the art world. Men invented it for themselves. Subvert and destroy it") and the funny ("Always refuse sex with an art dealer. You will only ever be sleeping your way to the middle").

She has signed it: "Break the rules. Make up your own. Hazel Dooney 2013."

Her thinking is that when she was younger no one advised her on anything, least of all the challenges to women artists.

And while she admires the text-art of US figureheads Jenny Holzer and Barbara Kruger, this is something different.

"It's not pretending to be advertising," she says. "This is not to reflect something about our culture, it is to try to add to the culture. I wanted it to have humour and truth but not be a lecture. I wanted it to be broadly accessible."

LINK

[www.hazeldooney.com](http://www.hazeldooney.com)