

## OPENING HELL

A new kind of *drawing* power for musician/poet/novelist **Richard Hell** – the opening of his first exhibition at **Rupert Goldsworthy Gallery** last Wednesday night showcased the artist's sketches. Many a teenager (myself included) identified with the existentialist angst and alienation of his lyrics while he fronted the now-legendary 70s punk band **Richard Hell & the Voidoids**. Hell was known to gravitate to music in order to find a vehicle



to showcase his poetry. Since then, his written-word prowess has been acknowledged through the publishing of several books. Never one to be trapped in a single medium, Hell is now sharing his handiwork in the visual arts. And what of it? Well, *my* *momma* done told me, "If it's *out-of-focus*, it's art; if it's *in-focus*, it's pornography." And I'm happy to report that **Richard's** drawings – several of his own(?) cock – are plenty *sharp*. The one piece that drew the most attention at the showing was "*The Facts of Death (and the Truth About Eternity)*", an iris print on watercolor paper, \$450. Interestingly, it was *not* a drawing, but a written tract on the subject of human mortality. (Ironically, his own artwork was upstaged by his prose...) Much of the remainder of the exhibit was devoted to models in various stages of undress exposing their genitalia. Aw, *hell*, **Richard**. What are you trying to do? Win an N.E.A. grant or something?

**Rupert Goldsworthy Gallery**, 463 W. 17th St., (212) 414-4560.