

Love letter,  
 when I dream of  
 you sometimes  
 it's just me as  
 you  
 other times  
 include other  
 people in the joy  
 of seducing  
 you  
 R.S.V.P

# art

David Robilliard:

*A Roomful of Hungry Looks*

**G**ilbert & George, the late David Robilliard's patrons and close friends, describe the artist as '...the sweetest, kindest, most infuriating, artistic, foul-mouthed, witty, sexy, charming, handsome, thoughtful, unhappy, loving and friendly person we ever met.'

An apt description for Robilliard's world and the work that came out of it. Art and poetry were a natural extension of his everyday life: he constantly scribbled puns and poems on bits of paper, drew portraits of his friends and combined the two in postcards and letters.

His paintings are simple, bright combinations of his funny and very astute poetry with unsophisticated, self-conscious line drawings. These are the drawings of a teenager — brutally honest, both anonymous and very personal. Completely unimpinged by academic art, there is no respect for perspective or other traditional considerations; the images gambol over one another, intermingling with the text and each other. The innocence of these pictures coupled with the unadorned

observations of London life in the 1980s is a fascinating combination.

The exhibition catalogues Robilliard's loves and losses, his worries and his delight in everyday life. Much of the work focuses on life as a gay man fighting AIDS; pieces such as the painting *Memory of a friend/a burst of tears/from all your friends/the end* are a poignant reminder of mortality. In the main, however, it is Robilliard's wit that comes through, along with observations on life that are so honest they're painful: 'I asked for Adonis/Not a doughnut,' proclaims one; 'The same pain/a different face/I'm in love again' should bring a wry smile to most lips.

The title of Robilliard's posthumously published book of poetry — *Life Isn't Good It's Excellent* — makes a fitting epitaph for a man who loved life and who died far too young. *Sally Swingewood*  
*A Roomful Of Hungry Looks shows at the Stedelijk Museum until Tuesday 1 June. Pictured: Love Letter.*

*Art starts on page 18.*

# gay

Mathilde Santing

*Santing Anything*

Sultry siren and musical darling of the dyke world Mathilde Santing will be touching a few more chords *con brio* this month. With her new trio The Tender Trap, she'll be turning Sunday afternoons at the

Betty Asphalt Complex into a truly thespian experience. 'Santing Anything' is starting rather appropriately in May (as it's rumoured anything may happen) and will carry on until the last week of June.

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# hotshots