

**HANNAH WILKE**

Possibly the most gorgeous face and body in town belongs to Hannah Wilke and there's a lot of it to be seen now at the Ronald Feldman Gallery. There is a color film of Wilke's performance at the Philadelphia Museum of Art where she did a sensuous and elegant striptease behind Duchamp's famous *Large Glass*. Wearing a fedora and a pantsuit with a vest and scarf, she carries this off with neat aplomb. In fact, she shows such poise that were it not for the accompanying black and white documentary film, which plays simultaneously with the color film, we might not suspect that she was fully human. However, the documentary shows that indeed she is vivacious, chews gum, spontaneously makes her androgynous "gundrops" and seems altogether likeable. That's part of the problem; how can anyone have that much looks, talent, intelligence, poise, etc.? This is not said facetiously but with a sense of awe. The color film and documentary make an amusing commentary on fantasy versus reality and Wilke's striptease is appropriate since Duchamp's *Large Glass* is also known as *The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even*.

*Intercourse With ...* is a black and white videotape of Wilke's performance/lecture at the London Art Gallery and Museum in Ontario. A simultaneous videotape plays phone messages that she has received, presumably on a telephone answering machine, from friends, lovers, and family culled from the past five years. Visually, the focus is chiefly on her facial expres-

sions and bodily reactions to the various messages. She seems to respond in a state of poetic reverie. The background music is schmaltzy. That she can make us believe it at all is surely a tribute to her artistry because most people replay their answering machines in a state of fatigue and anxiety. Of course, artists are not like the average person and Wilke certainly isn't the average artist. The gallery is also displaying Hannah Wilke photo-silkscreens, some photographs, and also the Hannah Wilke coin collection can—all very witty and cogent. Altogether, this show raises a lot of intricate questions, so better figure on a couple of hours' digesting time. (Ronald Feldman, *March 18-April 1*)