

# Art

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Where to buy...

**Francisco Rodriguez**

*Cooke Latham Gallery, 41 Parkgate Road,  
London SW11 (07802-884525). Until 1 March.*

Comic strips don't get much of a look-in when it comes to contemporary art. Although a handful of artists have found acclaim working

in the form – the haywire American cartoonist Robert Crumb being the most obvious – it remains the preserve of a supposedly lower tier of culture. The Chilean Francisco Rodriguez doesn't seem overly concerned by this snootiness – indeed, this exhibition, titled *The Burning Plain*, looks almost as if it could have been ripped straight from the pages of a particularly sinister *Tintin* title, the 40 small paintings it contains presented like panels in a graphic novel. The series contains a number of recurring motifs: images of jagged wire fences defended by guard dogs, shadowy figures dangling cigarettes from their lips, and the Sun descending below thickly forested horizons. Looking at *The Burning Plain* is a little like reading a storyboard that has been jumbled out of order. The effect is thrilling and not a little unsettling. Prices range from £400 to £5,000.