



Spain Rodriguez
Mission Nites

September 10–October 29, 2022

Cushion Works is pleased to present Spain Rodriguez: *Mission Nites*, a selection of artworks depicting the ever-changing San Francisco neighborhood the underknown artist called home for many decades. Rendered with astonishing sensitivity and precision, the drawings, paintings, and original comic strips on view showcase the hard-won romance of the Mission and make a case for Rodriguez (b. 1940, Buffalo; d. 2012, San Francisco) as one of the most talented draftspeople of his generation.

Known as the socialist soul of the underground comics movement, in 1969 Rodriguez moved to San Francisco, where he was invited to join the now-legendary Zap Comix by Robert Crumb. Many years later, Crumb recalled that his friend's "allegiance to radical left-wing politics and his proletarian class identity were stronger and clearer than most of the youths in the hippie subculture. His politics were driven by genuine, authentic class anger, class hatred. I liked that about him." Rodriguez was active with local cultural and political organizations like Galería de la Raza and the Mission Cultural Center, and the exhibition further includes archival material such as artist-drawn flyers for local events.

In works spanning the early 1980s to just before his death, Rodriguez brings to life all manner of Mission-dwellers – mothers, freaks, punks, gangsters, hot rods, bodegas, and more – in a style that improbably combines leftist politics, science fiction, and diaristic realism. As a proud Mission neighbor, Cushion Works recognizes and salutes the artist's commitment to the chaos and tenderness that defines the neighborhood.

www.cushionworks.info
info@cushionworks.info

Clockwise from left

Painted banner commissioned by Lollapalooza, 1992

"Factwino: The Opera," San Francisco Mime Troupe, 1985

Untitled (Rapidograph), 1992 (framed)

Untitled (Halloween San Francisco), 1982 (framed)

Untitled (Woman in the Mission), circa 1980s (framed)

Untitled (Precita Food Market), 1988 (framed)

Untitled (Quiet Mission Street at Night), circa 1990s (framed)

Series of sketches from "Observing Women of the Mission," 1982

Published in the San Francisco Sunday Examiner & Chronicle alongside text by John Levin

Mission Nites (Two Pages), 1983 (unframed)