

Where to buy...

The Week reviews an exhibition in a private gallery

Alina Grasmann

at Niru Ratnam

It's easy to see why Florida might hold appeal for a painter. It is at once a place of untameable nature and unimpeded artifice, home to both the Everglades and to Disney World. In *Florida Räume*, a series of recent paintings, the German artist Alina Grasmann (b.1989) imagines it as a kind of tropical Ballardian idyll, in which swamp vegetation encroaches on pristine landscaping and art-historical references run riot. We see melting clocks, as if from Dalí's *The Persistence of Memory*, draped over a pool lounger. Read the image literally and they are deflated pool toys; alternatively, you could see them as escapees from one surrealist fever dream to another. Brâncuși columns hang from trees like paper lanterns, while the lovers in Rodin's



There But Where, How (Room 10)

The Kiss hide themselves away in exotic foliage. All of this is articulated in the hyper-realistic, mildly disquieting and very marketable style that has dominated contemporary painting fashion for some time. But they are fun and funny – and really very good. Prices range from £4,000 to £20,000.

23 Ganton Street, London W1
(niruratnam.com). Until 24 June