

Studio tour

FIONA MCKENZIE JOHNSTON and photographer JOSHUA MONAGHAN have travelled round the country to visit the studios of five figurative artists with compelling stories, whose paintings, prints and works in other mediums would bring lasting aesthetic appeal to any interior



Studio Lenca

studiolenca.com

Multi-disciplinary artist Jose Campos works under the name Studio Lenca. Studio refers to the fact that his process is often collaborative, and Lenca to the indigenous people of eastern El Salvador, where Jose was born during the civil war. He and his mother fled to the US, where he grew up as one of the undocumented residents known as 'Dreamers'. Now living in Margate, Jose – who has exhibited widely across Europe, Asia, the US and El Salvador – is among the artists chosen by Tracey Emin to take up permanent residence in her new complex, TKE Studios, in the Kent coastal town. There is an emphasis on community and continued development, says Jose, 'Tracey joins us for life drawing.' His practice includes sculpture and performance, but he is best known for paintings that depict an anonymous figure in Mesoamerican-inspired costume – 'representing the migrant'. He compares this repetition to 'ballet or music – you do the same thing over again, but each time is a variation. I want the viewer to relax into the familiarity before they question the meaning.' A germane ideal lies behind the decorative finish: 'A greater representation of Latinx in contemporary culture and a welcoming home for every migrant.' *Studio Lenca is exhibiting at Soho Revue, W1, on October 4-November 4: sohorevue.com* ▷