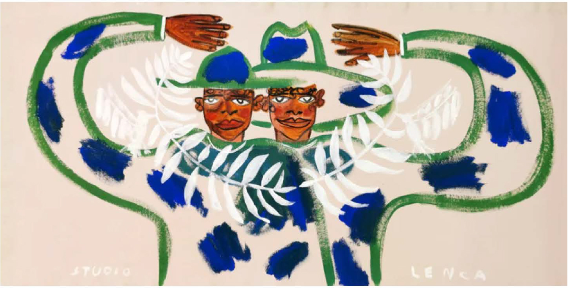
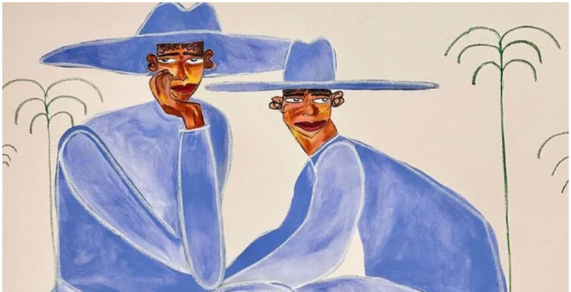
ART painting •••

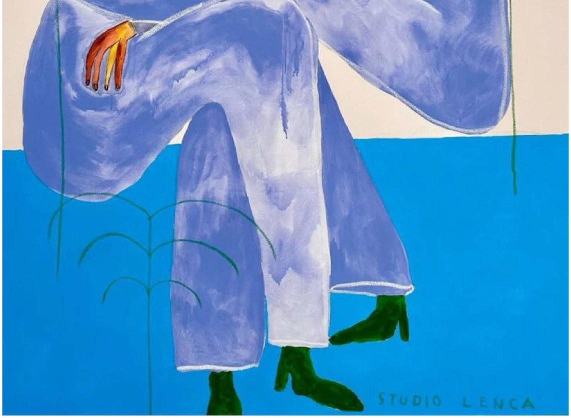
Studio Lenca paints a story of resilience

1 year ago - Giorgia Massari



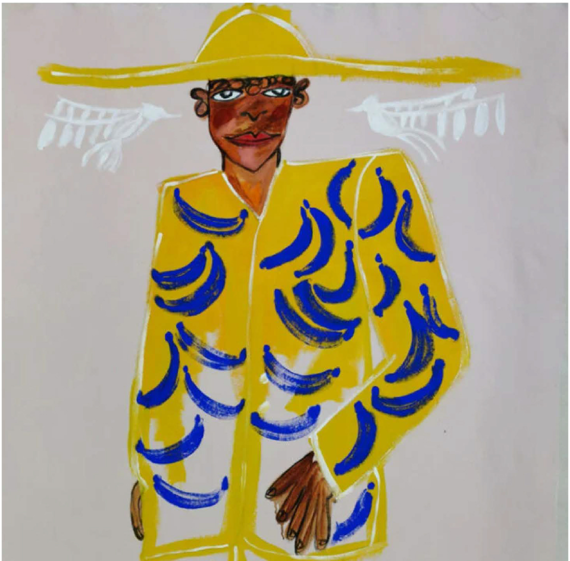
In the vast realm of contemporary art, few creators possess the ability to infuse their works with powerful narratives that defy convention and transcend boundaries. One such artist is **Jose Campos**, known by the stage name Studio Lenca. The choice to adopt this name – also on his social media and website, as well as for his signature – is extremely intimate and goes beyond the mere aesthetic concept. '**Studio' represents a space of constant evolution and experimentation, while 'Lenca' pays homage to Campos' ancestral roots in El Salvador**. Studio Lenca incorporates and brings together experimentation and cultural heritage, positioning itself not only as a collection of artworks, but as a platform for redefining artistic expression through identity and activism.





The origins of Studio Lenca

Jose Campos, the artist behind the evocative name Studio Lenca, was born in La Paz, El Salvador. His life path was marked by adversity, as he was forced to leave his country during the tumultuous civil war of the late 1980s. Together with his mother, Campos embarked on a perilous journey to the United States, where they lived as undocumented immigrants under the watchful eye of a conservative administration.



STUDIO
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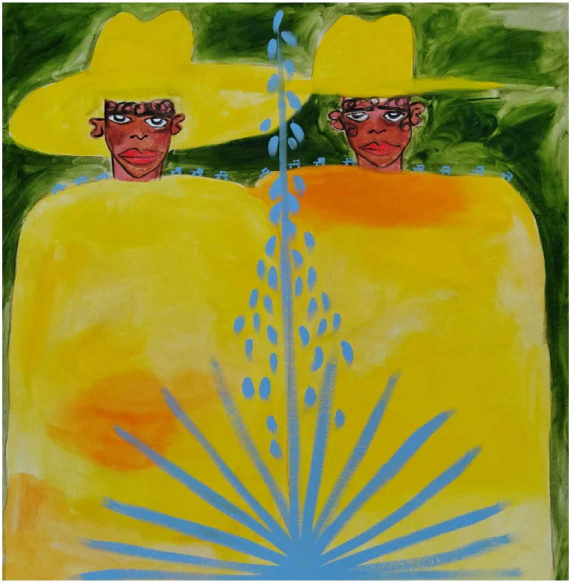
Art as a vehicle for expression and activism

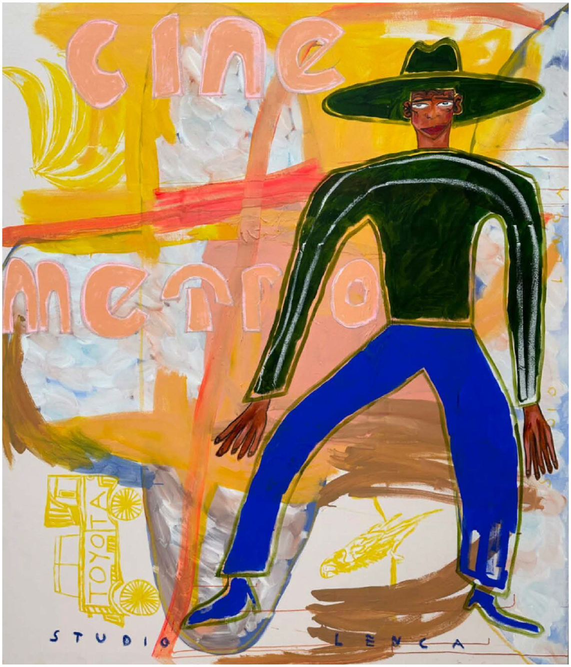
Through media such as performance, video, painting and sculpture, Campos develops a narrative that interweaves personal memories with activism and social praxis. His works arise from a deeply autobiographical space, touching on the experiences of the artist and his community. Studio Lenca's paintings, which often serve as autobiographical documents, transcend mere aesthetics to become vehicles of narrative. **These stories traverse the complexity of borders, identities and cultural heritage that have been torn, rewritten and erased by colonisation and war.** The portraits vividly depict Campos and his community in colourful clothing and distinctive hats, the visual embodiment of their unyielding resistance against the Western-centric discourse on migration.

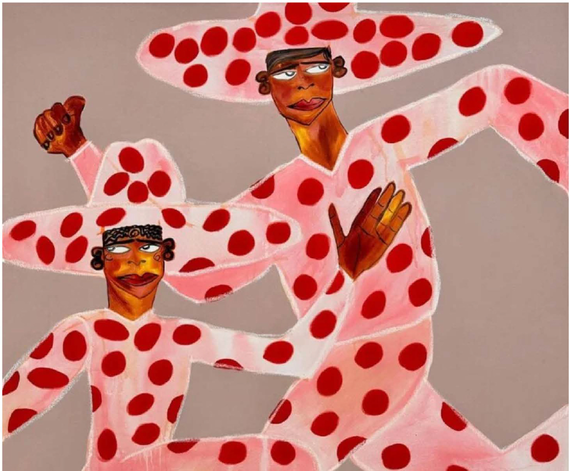


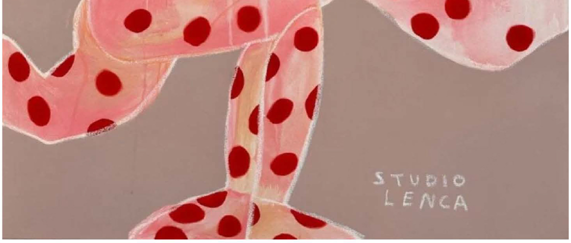
Storytelling as empowerment

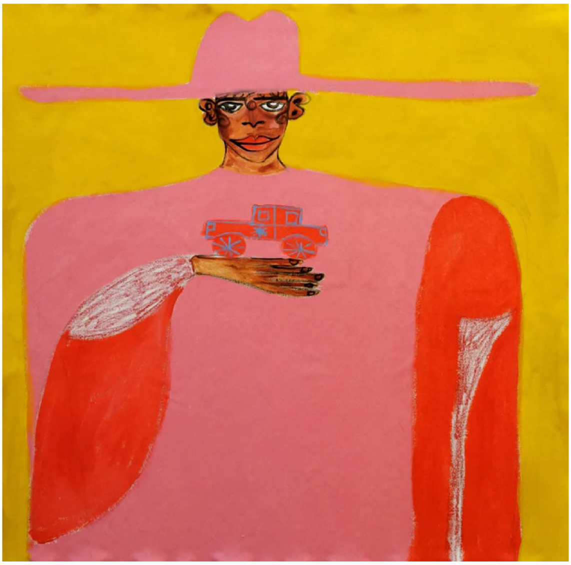
The narratives woven by Studio Lenca are a powerful form of empowerment. By channelling personal and collective experiences, Campos challenges societal norms and perceptions. **Through his work, Campos tackles the narrative of the 'illegal alien' and transforms it into an exploration of resilience, cultural pride and the complexity of belonging.**

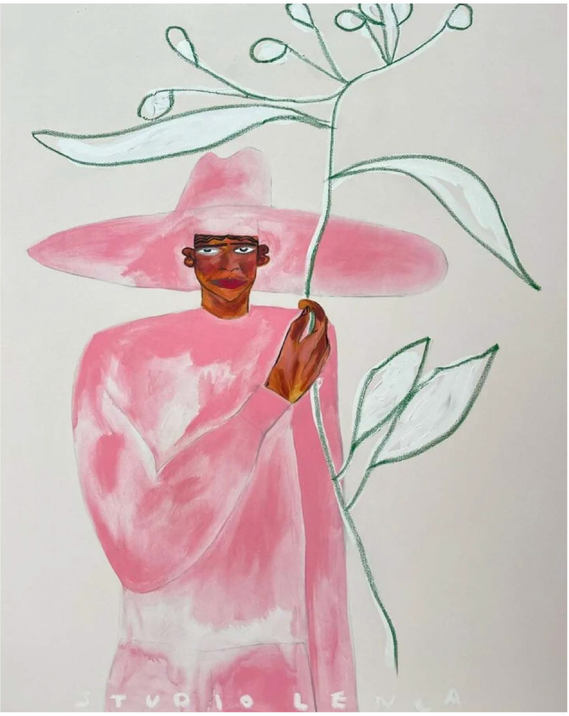
In an artistic landscape where stories have immense power, Studio Lenca testifies to the capacity of creativity to reshape conversations, challenge norms and elevate marginalised voices. With every brushstroke of colour, every frame captured and every shape sculpted, Studio Lenca reminds us that art is not just a reflection: it is an invitation to reimagine our understanding of history, identity and the human experience.











Studio Lenca is currently on show at Tang Gallery in Bangkok

Courtesy Studio Lenca