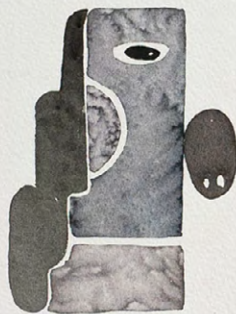




SILVERLENS

HEADS
LUIS LORENZANA



SILVERLENS

HEADS

LUIS LORENZANA

3 nov ~ 3 dec 2022

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Deciphering systems in the way images are formed and assembled, Luis Lorenzana's *Heads* presents abstract works synthesizing his continuing probe into identifying the essence of artistic expression, an endeavor that he had strived for years preceding his artistic career. Thus, in rendering and illustrating patterns, parameters of profiles become embedded and encoded in sequences or segments, which produce a framework that reciprocates formalistic approaches in painting. The organization of these elements induces sensibilities that are somewhat more uninhibited, albeit the controlled display of techniques and intentions one may find in the process of production. Lorenzana articulates these sentiments through mischievous yet meaningful forms without the burden of assembling themes and narratives to accompany an emotion, a feeling, or a thought.

Heads defines a significant period in the artist's career as he temporarily departs from the aesthetics of pop surrealism and its cache of cultural imagery. His works remain tied to the core of his practice in articulating characters that heed at the intersection of portraiture and abstraction. Lorenzana instinctively progresses from recreating the painterly techniques of the old masters to constructing a distinct visual vocabulary displaying his total command of painting. The animated parade of patterns breathes life into the material: the canvas becomes a setting for a scene, and the paper becomes a habitat for a collective. However, it is not only through images that representations of life are revealed. The series of oil paintings in this exhibition is initiated the moment the artist uses the canvas as a palette. This act leaves spontaneous textures and colors on the surface, which prompts Lorenzana to intervene and begin a more calculated composition of what must become of the plane: defining the background, the foreground, and the middle ground. While the process appears formalistic at best, the history of interaction between the material and the artist is lodged. The method extends the existence of a painting beyond being a picture and is somewhat an archive of the artist's movements and life inside his studio. In the series, polychromatic characters emerge from the subdued background and boldly make their presence seen. Perhaps, an indirect reference embodying the idea of survival and freedom – from nothing, it becomes something that thrives at the center of it all.

This show of force is not only observed through Lorenzana's conscious engagement with the material and the process but also in the mediums that mediate his works. From oil to watercolor, canvas to paper, the exhibition code switches to level the field and accommodate the propositions the artist constructs in assessing and understanding his practice. For years following his art career, he visited museums all over the world to fulfill an obligation to himself and make sense of studying art from an informal perspective, like a musician who 'plays it by ear.' Deviating from

the detail-oriented tradition of the lowbrow movement, the minimalist approach in producing his watercolor works sets him free from the task of decrypting and subverting the Western canon, and rather, he moves on to unravel his artistic ways, unfettered and unrestrained.

Indeed, these watercolor works are lined-up like a platoon dominating the ensemble. Here, we find an almost monochromatic set of profiles, occasionally disturbed by the insertion of multicolored forms as if to emphasize balance and space. Through them, Lorenzana maintains a structure that he wills inside a liberating and comfortable order. Thus, the subjects may look the same when viewed as a composite; nonetheless, each carries detail that unequivocally differentiates one from the rest. The characters in shades of black and gray are placed carefully in between gaps and voids. Their colorful counterparts lie sequentially or sometimes at random. Perhaps, a way to demonstrate the artist's full control of the pictorial. What must not be missed among these works is the manner in which the eyes are accentuated. They unfold impressions that insinuate familiar and unfamiliar feelings: sometimes tenderness, other times grit, and more.

Observing these works, Wallace Stevens' poem *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird* comes to mind. Its verses are comparable to Lorenzana's sets of heads, and both direct us to make the conventional seem fascinating and compelling. The eight verse of the poem narrows down such artistic exploration:

*I know noble accents
And lucid, inescapable rhythms;
But I know, too,
That the blackbird is involved
In what I know.*

The poet's confidence in these last three lines parallels the conviction displayed in every work in this exhibition. There is a level of certainty in the execution whilst being blithe and carefree. Long before he took on painting as a profession, Lorenzana had an auspicious career in public service and had years studying the characters that make and break a nation as he planned out a way to realize his artistic yearnings. Decades later, he reckons with painting the same way it measures him: undeterred, determined, and gratified. It may take a while, but there are rewards to being brave.

Words by Gwen Bautista





107 Heads, 2022

watercolor on paper

44h x 60w in • 111.76h x 152.40w cm

email

whatsapp



102 Heads, 2022

watercolor on paper

44h x 60w in • 111.76h x 152.40w cm

email

whatsapp







130 Heads, 2022

watercolor on paper

44h x 72w in • 111.76h x 182.88w cm

email

whatsapp



53 Heads B, 2022

watercolor on paper

44h x 32w in • 11.76h x 81.28w cm

email

whatsapp



127 Heads, 2022

watercolor on paper

44h x 72w in • 111.76h x 182.88w cm

email

whatsapp





53 Heads D, 2022

watercolor on paper

44h x 32w in • 11.76h x 81.28w cm

email

whatsapp



53 Heads C, 2022

watercolor on paper

44h x 32w in • 11.76h x 81.28w cm

email

whatsapp



53 Heads A, 2022

watercolor on paper

44h x 32w in • 11.76h x 81.28w cm

email

whatsapp







2 Heads A, 2022

acrylic & oil on canvas

20h x 20w in • 50.80h x 50.80w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)



Head 1, 2022

acrylic & oil on canvas

20h x 20w in • 50.80h x 50.80w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)



2 Heads B, 2022

acrylic & oil on canvas

22h x 26w in • 55.88h x 66.04w cm

email

whatsapp



4 Heads, 2022

acrylic & oil on canvas

24h x 24w in • 60.96h x 60.96w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)





Head 2, 2022

acrylic & oil on canvas

14h x 12w in • 35.56h x 30.48w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)



Head 3, 2022

acrylic & oil on canvas

14h x 10w in • 35.56h x 25.40w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)



Head 4, 2022

acrylic & oil on canvas

16h x 12w in • 40.64h x 30.48w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)



Head 5, 2022

acrylic & oil on canvas

14h x 10w in • 35.56h x 25.40w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)



Head 6, 2022

acrylic & oil on canvas

14h x 10w in • 35.56h x 25.40w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)



Head 7, 2022

acrylic & oil on canvas

14h x 12w in • 35.56h x 30.48w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)





Head 8, 2022

acrylic & oil on canvas

16h x 12w in • 40.64h x 30.48w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)



Head 9, 2022

acrylic & oil on canvas

16h x 12w in • 40.64h x 30.48w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)



Head 10, 2022

acrylic & oil on canvas

14h x 12w in • 35.56h x 30.48w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)



Head 11, 2022

acrylic & oil on canvas

16h x 12w in • 40.64h x 30.48w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)



Head 12, 2022

acrylic & oil on canvas

16h x 12w in • 40.64h x 30.48w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)



Head 13, 2022

acrylic & oil on canvas

16h x 12w in • 40.64h x 30.48w cm

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Head 14, 2022

acrylic & oil on canvas

16h x 12w in • 40.64h x 30.48w cm

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LUIS LORENZANA

Bio

Luis Lorenzana is an artist whose primary schooling in public administration and a formative career working at the Philippine Senate imbued his early works with a truly distinct political awareness. Over time, he has managed to create his own unique brand of pop surrealist works. He has participated in over 30 group and solo shows in Philippines, Hong Kong, Italy, Germany, Singapore, and the United States. Last January 2020, he had his first museum solo exhibition at the Katzen Arts Center, American University Museum in Washington DC.



LUIS LORENZANA

Bio

b. 1979, Manila, PH



Head 2, 2022

AWARDS

- 2006 **Top 30 Artists**, Philip Morris Philippine Art Awards 2006, Philippine National Museum
Top 5 Finalists, International Book Illustration Competition for the Booker's Prize Awardee, "Life of Pi," sponsored by The Times UK and Canongate Publishing, London, England. Featured in The Times London, 2006
- 2005 **Finalist**, 2005 Epson EPIX National Photography Competition, Shangrila Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
Finalist, 2005 Metrobank Art and Design Excellence, Metrobank Foundation Oil Painting Category
3rd Place, National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) National Arts Month, Web Gising National Digital Art Competition
Finalist, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, National Arts Month Painting Competition
- 2004 **Finalist**, Painting Category, Art Association of the Philippines Annual Competition 2004, GSIS Museo ng Sining
Grand Prize Winner, Spanish Festival For Culture and the Arts Painting Competition, sponsored by Instituto Cervantes, Manila
Finalist, Oil Category, 2004 Young Painters' Annual, Metrobank Foundation
- 2003 **Finalist**, Oil Category, 2003 Young Painters' Annual, Metrobank Foundation
- 2002 **Semifinalist**, Oil Category, 2002 Young Painters' Annual, Metrobank Foundation
- 2001 **Semifinalist**, Oil Category, 2001 Young Painters' Annual, Metrobank Foundation
- 2000 **Top 50 Artists**, Philip Morris Philippine Art Awards 2000, Metropolitan Museum of Manila

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 **Heads**, Silverlens, Makati City
- 2021 **Retrocracked**, Secret Fresh Gallery, San Juan City
Silim, University of the Philippines Vargas Museum, Manila
- 2020 **Heroes & Losers: The Edification of Luis Lorenzana**, American University Museum, Washington, D.C.
- 2019 **Saturation Imbalance**, Silverlens, Makati City
- 2018 **Lines, Compositions, Patterns, Repetitions**, West Gallery, Quezon City
New Works, Art Fair Philippines, Secret Fresh Gallery
- 2017 **Archival Collection** (2005-2008 Artworks) Exhibition and Book Launch, Leon Gallery, Makati City
(Following Exhibition at American University Museum at The Katzen Arts Center, Washington DC, Jan- March 2020)
- 2016 **Quickstrike**, Secret Fresh Gallery, San Juan City
- 2014 **instanity**, Silverlens Gillman Barracks, Singapore
Mona Lisa Overdose, Secret Fresh Gallery, San Juan City
- 2013 **League of Luminous Lunatics**, Silverlens, Makati City
- 2012 **El Romantico Show and Toy Launch**, Secret Fresh Gallery, San Juan
Beautiful Pain, Silverlens, Gillman Barracks, Singapore
Beautiful Pain, Silverlens, Makati City
- 2010 **The Tales of the Beer Fairies**, Silverlens, Makati City
- 2009 **The Midnight Lullaby**, Silverlens, Makati City
Chasing Fantasies, Distinction Gallery, Escondido, California
- 2008 **Manila Folder**, Distinction Gallery and Studios, Escondido, California

LUIS LORENZANA

Bio

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Makati City
- 2020 *Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Makati City
ALT Philippines, West Gallery, Makati City
- 2019 *WXXX*, West Gallery, Quezon City
Art Fair Philippines, Silverlens, Makati City
- 2018 *RE: VIEW 2018*, Bencab Museum, Baguio
No Safety Pins Required, Pundido Gallery, Makati City
PRIME MERIDIAN, Vinyl on Vinyl, Makati City
- 2016 *Art Fair Philippines*, Makati City
- 2015 *Art Fair Philippines*, Makati City
- 2014 *Art Fair Philippines*, Makati City
Extended Play, Vinyl on Vinyl, Makati City
Art Basel, Silverlens, Hong Kong
- 2013 *Ley Hunting 2*, Silverlens, Makati City
Art Flood: Fundraising for Yolanda, Silverlens, Makati City
Art Fair Philippines, Makati City
Art Basel, Hong Kong
Art Taipei, Taiwan
- 2012 *Ley Hunting 1*, Silverlens, Gillman Barracks, Singapore
Art HK 12, Hong Kong
Art Stage Singapore, Singapore
Taetturn Et. Dulce, MondoPOP, International Gallery, Rome, Italy
- 2011 *Manila Art 11*, Manila
Art HK 11, Hong Kong
Pulse New York 2011, New York
- 2010 *Manila Art 10*, Manila, Philippines
Pulse Miami 2010, Florida, USA
JEST in Time, Distinction Gallery and Studios, Escondido, California, USA
METAMORPHOSIS: BeinArt International Surreal Art Collective Group Exhibition, CoproGallery, Santa Monica, California
Art HK 10, Hong Kong
Pulse New York 2010, New York
- 2009 *Magistrates*, Strychnin Gallery, Berlin, Germany
Tabi Tabi Po, 1:AM Gallery, San Francisco, California, USA
Life Essential, Art Whino Gallery, Maryland, USA
Heavy Hitters-Maryland, Art Whino Gallery, Maryland, USA
The Quantum Exhibit, Daniel Fountain Contemporary, Maryland, USA
Inked Souls 2009, Art Whino Gallery, Maryland, USA
- 2008 *"2008 Toy Show"* Customized Artist's Toys Exhibit, MFGALLERY, Live Fast NYC, USA
PROJECT 5X7, Distinction Gallery and Studios, California, USA
- 2006 Philippine Art Awards 2006 Exhibition, National Museum of the Philippines, Manila
- 2000 Philippine Art Awards 2000 Exhibition, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Manila
Dos Por Dos, Boston Gallery, Boston Street, Quezon City, Metro Manila

LUIS LORENZANA

Bio

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts Major in Public Administration

University of the Philippines, Diliman Quezon City, Year 2000

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Michelle Yun, *Lorenzana Archival Collection*, International Arts and Artists, Washington DC, 2017. ISBN: 978-0988-349-742

Ambeth R. Ocampo, *Painting National Heroes In a New Light*, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Jan. 17, 2018

Duffie Osental, *The Past, Present, and Future of Luis Lorenzana*, Art+ Magazine, Issue No. 49, p. 78-81

Hannah Jo Uy, *The Indomitable Spirit of Luis Lorenzana*, Artist at Work Series, Manila Bulletin, March 13, 2017, p. D-3

Pepper Teehankee, *Unearthing Lorenzana's Voice and Vision*, Philippine Star, March 7, 2017, p. C7

Alex Pastor, *Luis Lorenzana: An Artist Ahead of His Time*, Business Mirror, Feb. 20, 2017

Angelo Garcia, *Spotlight: Philippine Art*, Manila Bulletin, October 31, 2016, p. D1

Pepper Teehankee, *Quickstrike*, Philippine Star, July 22, 2016, p. D10

Pepper Teehankee, *Mona Lisa Overdose*, Philippine Star, Feb. 11, 2014, p. C8

Hayley Evans, *Luis Lorenzana's Paintings and Sculptures Mock the Insanity of Excess in Contemporary Culture*, www.beautifuldecay.com, January 8, 2015

Sonia Kolesnikov- Jessop, *From Pain, Painter Luis Lorenzana Creates Beauty*, Blouin Artinfo, September 23, 2012

Ann Alvero, *The Clown Gets The Last Laugh*, Contemporary Art Philippines, Issue 18, p. 159-162

Pam Casin, *Luis Lorenzana: The Man Makes Magic*, Manila Bulletin, Dec. 6, 2010, p. E3

Clift Sawit, *16 Top Illustrators*, Rogue Magazine, November 2009, p. 90-91

Drawn to the Power of Pi, The Times London, Feb. 18, 2006, p. Books 12-13



LUIS LORENZANA

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