

# EMERGENT ART IN COLOMBIA A GOOD CHOICE?

*In this country it appears to be very difficult starting a career if someone wants to be an artist, even more, if it is emerging.*

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According to the website of the Culture Ministry, in the period between 2018 and 2020 there were 221.426.000.000 COP (60.226.853 USD) invested to incentivize artists and promote the culture in Colombia. This amount of money was distributed through two programs called "Programa Nacional de Concertación Cultural" and "Programa Nacional de Estímulos". 47.000.000.000 COP (12.783.783 USD) were distributed in 136 municipalities and 174.426.000.000 COP (47.443.069 USD) in 595 municipalities of 32 departments.

Artemergente, researching in interviews, found some testimonies about the destination of part of this money.

Sandra Suárez, the person in charge of calls at the Petra Theatre, one of the most important in Colombia that discovers many actors annually, says: "It's a support that has always existed and that we hope will continue to exist."

According to this, there is another new initiative called "ReactivArte", started this year that has helped more theatres in the country, but diminishing the amount given for each one. In total 4.345.000.000 COP (1.181.820 USD) were handed out.

On the other hand, there is Javier Ojeda, guitarist of the Burning Caravan, an emergent music-theatre band that is trying to reactivate its movement after the pandemic. Javier says:

"With you buying a single album, it's equivalent to 14 thousand Spotify plays, you can do the calculation, how miserable is the payment of Spotify."

With these figures and testimonies, the question stills open: Emergent Art in Colombia: A good choice? ■