



Nothing is complete. Everything is fragmentary.
Education, economy and the search for exhibition spaces.

Education, an important point for art. The understanding of art should perhaps not come from the manner demanded of it. Art should be felt and enjoyed, like wine. We can be non-wine experts and enjoy a good or bad wine; we can't assess it from the parameters of specialists but we can enjoy it or abhor it. The same occurs in art; we can enjoy it or abhor it but never value it. As for any other discipline, it requires prior knowledge and study to be valued. Despite this, society demands an understanding that, in contrast, isn't demanded from other types of disciplines. It is undervalued when the press only focuses on the outrageous prices of some historical works, making us wonder if the piece is really worth that amount. Many disciplines are questioned in relation to the price paid for them. In these cases, we must look to the market, which is the true controller of the economy. If a sum is paid for something, we can be sure that it will have positive repercussions. The market doesn't operate by taking risks, it normally does so with certainty.

The economic question brings us to another incorrect concept surrounding art. Modern society is used to spending money on decorating its homes. We like reproductions of familiar paintings and we are not able, perhaps due to ignorance about the means and fear that the response will be the excessive sums that we see on the news, to inquire about prices of objects that we can see exhibited in bars or shops, without even mentioning galleries. It gives you vertigo to ask due to the fear of high prices, as we don't know that for the same price we pay in a decoration shop or even in the big Swedish store for a poster, we could have a print, a photograph, an engraving or even a sculpture or painting, all original and in some cases unique, for a similar price. We're not informed! We're told from very young to be immersed in the capitalist system of big chains, to follow the herd like sheep behind the sheepdog and, in the end, it all breeds lethargy of the spirit and critical action. Education in taste and respect should begin in early childhood.

Centre and periphery

As with other social aspects or with life in a large number of cities, in Bilbao it can be appreciated that the centre is a focal point for initiatives, both public and private, more focused on the dissemination and commerce of art. That is, those focused on the art market as a monetary economy. Whereas in the periphery, or in accordance with how far away we are from the centre, we can enjoy more innovative initiatives, on the whole self-managed and which grow or change over time. Bilbao la Vieja, San Francisco, Solokoetxe and Zorrozaurre are some of the districts with more movement in creation and dissemination in the sphere of the most modern art. The centre, clearly designed for cultural and commercial tourism, and the periphery, a space for innovation and experimentation. The new versus the established; to experiment rather than commercialise.

Taking these initiatives forward requires a lot of time and effort that don't normally go hand in hand with the remuneration received in exchange. Work close to the artist's, effort and

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resolve that seldom let you survive on work. It's paradoxical that the people who sustain new creation, experimentation, research and, in short, the future of these places located in the centre, have to rely so much on inspiration in order to move forward, to be able to work. If we extrapolate this to any other profession, who'd be willing to commit so much of themselves?

We have grants for production, a faculty for learning, associations and independent groups that are doing very interesting work for the trade, but we're missing places where we can show these subsidised works, these projects that can be done but don't continue their path, their natural process of being exhibited for everyone to enjoy them, feel them and live them, without this claim of comprehension, rather, with the interest of being able to enjoy them. Bilbao needs places suitable for exhibiting.

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