

practice obviously, because you can't make something for nothing." The data we've published so far presents just one perspective through which we can better

understand commonalities in the living and working conditions of LA artists. Given its limitations however, artists' perspectives are necessary in order to reflect the nuances that exist within this data.

The following dispatch includes words of individual LA-based artists who participated in interviews during which we presented and talked about our previously published data on Basic Necessities and Art Earnings. By complementing the data with the words of artists, the LAAC aims to offer a fuller

understanding of local artists' individual experiences.

What are L.A. Artists

saying about their Art Practice Earnings? "2019 was the first [year] that I had gotten any money for my [art] work, it wasn't much, \$450 in total. I was so happy because it had never happened to me **before**... I was really proud that I made something."

costs to produce things, let alone support living expenses or even rent for a studio or anything like that." "I never know what exhibitions I'm going to get into or if the exhibitions are

going to provide any kind of remuneration... [My art practice earnings are]

completely unknown every single year. So it's like every year I start again

from zero."

"For a few years I was making a tiny amount [from my art practice], like a tiny

honorarium for exhibiting. But it was small. Not even close to how much it

How are L.A. Artists Funding their Art Practice?

"I have a full-time job now that also is very related to my art practice. I am now able to take money that I make on the side ... and then reinvest it in my practice. Because of that, now I actually make more money off of the things I do for my practice." "I go into art making [knowing] I'm not going to earn back what I put into it. I get money from [my job] and put what I can into [my art practice]. I don't expect any real earnings at this point from my art, especially now."

"I mean on a very basic, real level my husband's job has been a huge

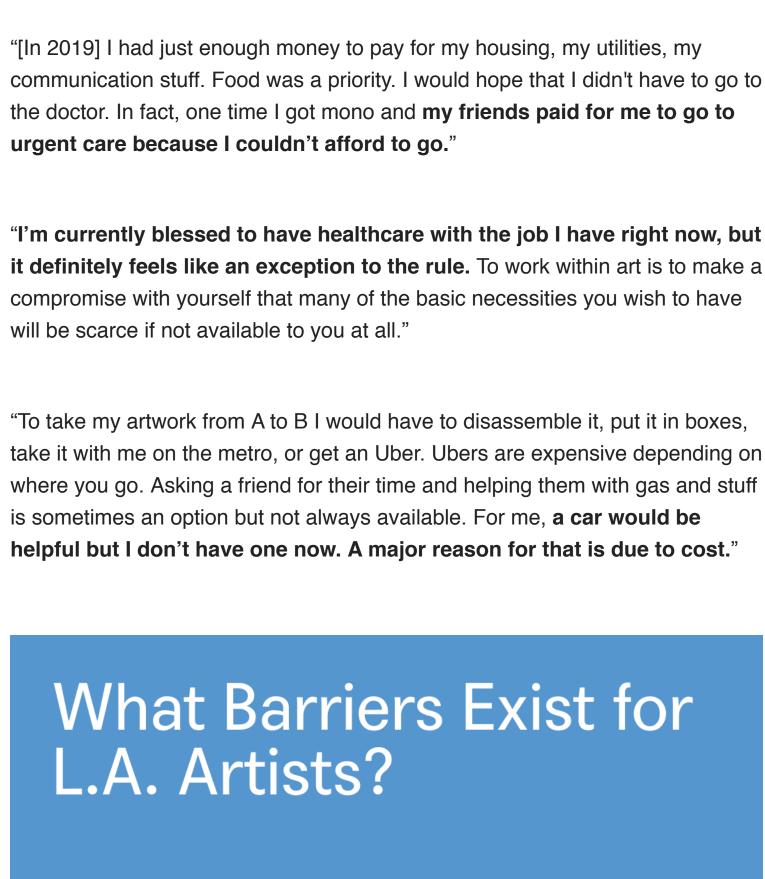
to run the family on his salary alone."

support. Because of the way things have worked out in society, he ended up

being the one with the high-paying job that was flexible enough that allowed us

Are L.A. Artists Lacking

Basic Necessities?



has caused a number of problems. I also feel like it's much harder to get work if you are publicly identified as trans ... So I think that [explains] a lot [about where the disparities in arts practice earnings by Gender] comes from." "My identity as a parent impacts my ability to earn money as an artist just because you can't put in that time. The art world is a lot about connections ... that's how you learn about opportunities ... It's totally been a struggle because I

can't get out to those events because I have a kid to take care of. I have a

L.A. visual artists—

tell us what you think.

family to look after."

"I've had people make extremely transphobic and racist comments directly to

my face because they didn't know that I'm trans or identified that way, and that

How does our data compare to your experience as a visual artist in Los Angeles County? **EMAIL US.** *All published responses will be made anonymous.

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SPREAD THE WORD ON SOCIAL

publishes data about the lives and practices of LA County visual artists. For more information visit our website and follow us.

The Los Angeles Artist Census (LAAC) is an artist-run research initiative that gathers and

Los Artist Angeles Census