



“The Rotunda Gallery”

A display of Trinidad and Tobago’s cultural and political heritage

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Artists & Collectors

The Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is inviting submissions for our **Virtual and Live Exhibition: “Carnival: A Celebration of our Trinbagonian Identity”**. The exhibition will be held from **31st January - 4th March 2022**.

The Vision

Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago is celebrated before the commencement of the Lenten season. From 1783 for half a century, the French developed their Carnival, which was noted to be a season of gay and elegant festivities extending from Christmas to Ash Wednesday. These festivities consisted of dinners, balls, concerts and hunting parties.

The Africans started to participate in the festivities from 1833 after the Emancipation Bill was passed. The Africans brought Canboulay to its festivities. ¹Canboulay was first played on August 1st, Emancipation Day, but subsequently took place after midnight on Dimanche Gras, the Sunday before Carnival. In early celebration of the festival by the masses, activities were held over the three days preceding Ash

¹ Canboulay (from the French cannes brulées meaning burnt cane) is a precursor to Trinidad and Tobago Carnival and has played an important role in the development of the music of Trinidad and Tobago. The festival is also where calypso music has its roots.

Wednesday. However, in the face of over 60 years of criticism from the upper class about the low standard of Carnival and strong feelings expressed about the desecration of the Sabbath, in 1943 Carnival on the street was restricted to the Monday & Tuesday.

Celebrating Carnival remains a large part of our Trinbagonian identity. It is welcoming to all, and at its core is resistance in the form of joy, and reclaiming spaces. Carnival is a tradition that has endured through hardship and sacrifice which will continue to be an important fixture in our identity and culture.

With the current state of COVID-19 restrictions, our country is experiencing some semblance of sacrifice with the festivities put on hold for the last two Carnival seasons. Therefore, it is important that we celebrate Carnival through visual art to keep our traditions alive.

Inspirational Tags

Carnival; Masquerade; Costumes; Masks; Traditional Mas; Traditional Carnival Characters; Traditions; Canboulay; Dimanche Gras; Creativity; Music; Musical Instruments; Steel Pan; Steel band; National Instrument; Soca Music; Chutney Soca Music; Calypso Music; Kaiso Music; Stick Fighting; J'ouvert Celebrations; Culture; Cultural Expressions; Cultural Heritage; Cultural Legacy; Identity; Trinbagonian; Trinidad and Tobago.

Important Notes

- ❖ All visual art genres are acceptable (painting, photography, drawing, sculpture, prints, fabric art, collage, installation art, digital art).
- ❖ Submissions for this call are open **only** to nationals of Trinidad and Tobago.
- ❖ There is no submission fee, but artists and collectors will be responsible for framing, transport, and insurance of their artwork.
- ❖ No sexual content, violence, hatred, or propaganda.

- ❖ The final decision on whether your artwork will be exhibited is at the sole discretion of the Office of the Parliament Rotunda Gallery Committee.
- ❖ Artists and Collectors may be invited to exhibit by the Office of the Parliament Rotunda Gallery Committee or solicited through a call to artists.
- ❖ The Office of the Parliament will, at the Artist's request, make contact information available to persons interested in purchasing the artwork. All sales and related negotiations are the sole responsibility of the Artist.
- ❖ **You are required to submit the title, medium, year, size, and price of artwork.**

Important Dates

Activity	Date
Call for Submissions	Friday 31 st December 2021
Email Submission deadline of artwork and other supporting documents to rotundagallery@tparliament.org	Sunday 23 rd January 2022
Selection Notification via email	Tuesday 25 th January 2022
Submission of artwork at the Rotunda Gallery, Red House	Thursday 27 th and Saturday 29 th January 2022
Collection of artworks from the Rotunda Gallery, Red House	Wednesday 9 th March 2022

Submission Guidelines and Requirements

- ❖ Proof of Trinidad and Tobago citizenship (National ID or Passport).
- ❖ Contact information (name, phone number, email address).
- ❖ A brief Artist Statement (not exceeding 300 words).
- ❖ An explanation of each piece submitted (not exceeding 150 words per piece).
- ❖ Images (at least 300 dpi) of up to three (3) pieces of work.
- ❖ Documents must be submitted electronically to rotundagallery@tparliament.org in Word format and images of work must be in .JPEG format. See title examples below:

- John Doe_National ID
- John Doe_Carnival_2022_24x44inches
- John Doe_Artist Statement_2022
- ❖ Artwork(s) must be ready to hang or display.
- ❖ Collectors must submit proof of ownership of the artwork.
- ❖ **You are required to submit the title, medium, year, size, and price of artwork.**

The Selection Process

Office of the Parliament Rotunda Gallery Committee will select artwork for “Carnival: A Celebration of our Trinbagonian Identity” Virtual Exhibition.

Frequently Asked Questions for Exhibitions at the Rotunda Gallery

1. **WHO CAN SUBMIT WORKS?** Any citizen of Trinidad and Tobago.
2. **WHAT CAN I SUBMIT?** Artists and collectors can submit up to three (3) pieces of work in any medium or genre of visual arts which includes, painting, photography, drawing, sculpture, prints, fabric art, collage, installation art, digital art or other. **No sexual content, violence, hatred, or propaganda.** Unsuitable works will not be accepted.
3. **I CANNOT COMPLETE ARTWORK BY THE DEADLINE, ARE THERE ANY OTHER OPPORTUNITIES?** Yes, the Rotunda Gallery will be a permanent exhibition space to display Trinidad and Tobago’s cultural and political heritage. Follow the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago and Rotunda Gallery on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for future Calls for Submissions.
4. **HOW MANY WORKS CAN I SUBMIT?** Artists may submit **up to THREE (3) pieces** of artwork unless specific permission has been granted to submit a collection.

5. **WHAT IS THE SIZE LIMITATION?** The maximum size is 60 inches in height and 72 inches in width.
6. **WILL THE ARTWORK BE INSURED?** It is the responsibility of the artist or the collector to arrange all insurance. While every effort will be made to ensure that artworks submitted are handled carefully and well protected, all artworks should be insured door to door by the participating artist or collector.
7. **HOW WILL I KNOW WHETHER MY WORK HAS BEEN SELECTED?** You will receive an email informing you of the status of your submission.
8. **DO I HAVE TO FRAME MY ARTWORK?** For the initial electronic submission, the artwork can be unframed. Once you receive the email advising of the selection of your piece(s), you may proceed to the framing phase to prepare your work for submission day (unless your work will be exhibited virtually). All selected works must be professionally/tastefully mounted and ready for hanging or installation in the Rotunda Gallery.
9. **WHAT CAN I EXPECT ON FINAL SUBMISSION DAY?** **Artists are required to bring in their work(s), ready to hang or display.** The labels and submission form will be provided in the notification email. Both documents should be completed in advance and submitted with artwork.
10. **WHAT ARE THE GALLERY HOURS?** Due to current restrictions, visitors are not allowed at this time, so the exhibition and tours will be strictly online and virtual at Rotunda Gallery TT on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
11. **I CANNOT COLLECT MY ARTWORK IN THE WINDOW PROVIDED CAN I AUTHORISE SOMEONE TO COLLECT ON MY BEHALF?** Yes. We DO NOT have a facility to store unclaimed works. Please arrange to collect your works within the window provided. If you are designating someone to collect

your artwork you must send us an email with the person's name, and they must provide photo ID on arrival.

¹User, Super. "History Of Carnival". Ncctt.Org, 2021,
<http://www.ncctt.org/new/index.php/carnival-history/history-of-carnival.html>.