



“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 Exhibition: “Emancipation...Liberation of a People”**, in commemoration of Emancipation Day in Trinidad and Tobago. The Exhibition will be held from **1st August to 27th August**.

The Vision

¹The history of the New World since Columbus re-discovered it is one of conquest, pillage, exploitation and forced migration of a people. For more than three centuries, millions of people were forcibly transported from their homes in Africa, across the perilous Atlantic Ocean to the New World, where they were forced to labour on sugar plantations for the rest of their lives. This enslavement of a people continued until events in Europe changed the fortunes of the West Indian and North American colonies. Humanitarians started questioning the validity of slavery, there was competition from beet sugar producers in Europe, and the advent of the Industrial Revolution spawned the rise of a new group of influential men in the British Parliament who believed that slavery was no longer economically viable.

In 1833 Thomas Buxton presented The Emancipation Bill in Parliament. The Act was passed and came into effect on 1 August 1834. On that day, thousands of slaves in the British West Indies became free men and women.

One hundred and fifty-one years later, on 1 August 1985 the government of Trinidad and Tobago declared Emancipation Day a national holiday to commemorate the abolition of slavery.

“Culture is who we are, and what shapes our identity. Placing culture at the heart of development policies is the only way to ensure a human-centred, inclusive, and equitable development” - Jyoti Hosagrahar.

²Within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in September 2015 by the United Nations, the international development agenda refers to culture for the first time. This has been lauded by UNESCO as “an unparalleled recognition”. The safeguarding and promotion of culture is an end, and at the same time it contributes directly to many of the SDGs – safe and sustainable cities, decent work, and economic growth, reduced inequalities, the environment, promoting gender equality and peaceful and inclusive societies. The indirect benefits of culture are accrued through the culturally informed and effective implementations of the development goals.

The Rotunda Gallery welcomes submissions that celebrate the African culture and heritage which is a pivotal component of the cultural diversity of Trinidad and Tobago.

Inspirational Tags

Parliament; African Diaspora; African Culture; African Heritage; Cultural Heritage; Cultural Legacy; African Dishes; Ground Provision; Okra; Coo Coo; Oil Down; African Festivals; African Religion; Orisha; Spiritual Baptist; Musical Instruments; Drums; Rattles; African Dance; Bongo; Shango; Kalinda; Limbo; African Fashion;

African Craft; Emancipation Day; African Traditions and Rituals; 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.

Important Dates

Activity	Date
Call for Submissions	Friday 2 nd July, 2021
Email Submission deadline of artwork and other supporting documents to rotundagallery@tpparliament.org	Sunday 25 th July, 2021
Selection Notification via email	Tuesday 27 th July, 2021
Submission of artwork at the Rotunda Gallery, Red House	Thursday 29 th and Saturday 31 st July, 2021
Collection of artworks from the Rotunda Gallery, Red House	Wednesday 1 st September, 2021

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@ttparliament.org in Word format and images of work must be in .JPEG format. See title examples below:
 - John Doe_National ID
 - John Doe_EmancipationDay_2021_24x44inches
 - John Doe_Artist Statement_2021
- ❖ Collectors must submit proof of ownership of the artwork.

The Selection Process

Office of the Parliament Rotunda Gallery Committee will select artwork for the Emancipation Day 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. 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.

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.

¹Nalis.gov.tt. 2021. Emancipation Day. [online] Available at: <<https://www.nalis.gov.tt/Resources/Subject-Guide/Emancipation-Day>> [Accessed 21 June 2021].

²Culture: at the heart of SDGs. (2021). Retrieved 19 April 2021, from <https://en.unesco.org/courier/april-june-2017/culture-heart-sdgs#:~:text=Culture%20has%20a%20crucial%20role,its%20formal%20introduction%20in>