



“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: “The Freedom of Expression, The Mosaic of Meaning: An Abstract Show”**. The Exhibition will be held from **27th September – 22nd October 2021**.

The Vision

The Rotunda Gallery would like to invite the artists of Trinidad and Tobago to express themselves through their art with an abstract show. Through the pandemic, it caused many emotions and uncertainty in each of our lives. We were faced with many changes, some good and some were bad. Some of us gained something positive, while others gained something negative. Whatever it is you experienced or are experiencing, we want you to share with us all these experiences through abstraction.

Abstract art has been around for well over 100 years. Some might even assert that abstraction started with the cave paintings of thousands of years ago - and has held

its own against changing art movements, manifestos, and testimonials for all these centuries.¹

Abstraction can be traced to Impressionism, Post-Impressionism and Cubism. All three helped realize the idea that art could be non-representative. Abstract art now lives in the art world in many forms. It is two- and three-dimensional. It can be vast or small. Abstract art can also be made with many materials and on many surfaces. It can be used in concert with representational art or completely abstract. Artists creating it often focus on other visual qualities like colour, form, texture, scale and more in their non-objective work.

The continuing interest in abstract art lies in its ability to inspire our curiosity about the reaches of our imagination and the potential for us to create something completely unique in the world.

The Rotunda Gallery welcomes submissions that allow artists of Trinidad and Tobago to showcase their expression and creativity.

Inspirational Tags

Creative; Creative Expressions; Emotional Expression; Abstract; Contemporary Art; Modern Art; Abstract Expressionism; Fine Art; Minimalistic Art; 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.

¹ Abstraction literally means the distancing of an idea from objective referents. That means, in the visual arts, pulling a depiction away from any literal, representational reference points. You can also call abstract art nonrepresentational art.

- ❖ 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	Tuesday 31st August
Email Submission deadline of artwork and other supporting documents to rotundagallery@ttparliament.org	Sunday 19th September, 2021
Selection Notification via email	Tuesday 21st September, 2021
Submission of artwork at the Rotunda Gallery, Red House	Thursday 23rd and Saturday 25th September, 2021
Collection of artworks from the Rotunda Gallery, Red House	Wednesday 27th October, 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@tparliament.org in Word format and images of work must be in .JPEG format. See title examples below:
 - John Doe_National ID
 - John Doe_The Freedom of Expression_2021_24x44inches
 - John Doe_Artist Statement_2021
- ❖ Collectors must submit proof of ownership of the artwork.
- ❖ **You are required to submit the title, medium, year, size, and price of artwork.**
- ❖ Submissions received after the deadline and without all the supporting documents will not be considered.

The Selection Process

Office of the Parliament Rotunda Gallery Committee will select artwork for The Freedom of Expression 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. 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.

¹Artists Network. 2021. What Is Abstract Art? And Why Should I Care? [online] Available at: <https://www.artistsnetwork.com/art-inspiration/what-is-abstract-art/> [Accessed 28 August 2021].