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 “The Arrival: The Beginning...The Fusion of the Indian Heritage” in commemoration of Indian Arrival Day. The exhibition will be held from Monday 22nd May – Friday 16th June, 2023.

Inspirational Tags
Trinidad and Tobago; East Indian Diaspora; East Indian Culture; East Indian Heritage; East Indian Legacy; East Indian Traditions; East Indian Language; East Indian Cuisine; Trini East Indian Cuisine; East Indian Sweets; Religion; Hindu Religion; Muslim Religion; East Indian Customs; East Indian Festivals; Divali; Eid-ul-Fitr; Phagwa; Hoosay; East Indian Music; Chutney Music; Chutney Soca; Tassa; Tabla; Dholak; Majeera; Bansoori; Sitar; Harmonium; East Indian Song; East Indian Fashion; East Indian Jewellery; Indian Arrival Day.

The Vision

Indian Arrival Day commemorates the arrival of the first Indian Indentured labourers from India to Trinidad, in May 1845, on the ship Fatel Razack. Not only did it bring a new labour force to assist in the economic development of Trinidad, but also a new
people with a new culture. As these indentured labourers had children, who in turn viewed Trinidad as home, the local Indian population grew exponentially, with some growing to acquire their own agricultural lands. On these lands, they grew rice, sugar cane, cocoa, and other food groups, and raised livestock. The East Indians brought to Trinidad a wide range of rich cuisine, such as roti, curry and doubles, cultural contributions such as clothing, music and dance, religion and religious festivals. By 1871, these immigrants made up 25% of Trinidad’s population and by 1990, their descendants became the largest ethnic group on the island.

The indirect benefits of culture are accrued through the culturally informed and effective implementations of the Sustainable Development Goals. This exhibition theme aligns with goal #11 of the United Nations SDGs. Culture has a crucial role to play in SDG #11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Target #11.4 calls for strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage.

The Rotunda Gallery welcomes submissions that celebrate the East Indian culture, heritage and contributions these immigrants and their descendants brought to Trinidad and Tobago from India. These customs and practices have made a huge historic change to the cultural landscape of our twin islands, 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**

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call for Submissions</td>
<td>Thursday 06 April, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email Submission deadline of artwork and other supporting documents to <a href="mailto:rotundagallery@ttparliament.org">rotundagallery@ttparliament.org</a></td>
<td>Sunday 14th May, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selection Notification via email</td>
<td>Tuesday 16th May, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission of artwork at the Rotunda Gallery, Red House</td>
<td>Saturday 20th May, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for collection of artworks from the Rotunda Gallery, Red House</td>
<td>Thursday 22nd June, 2023</td>
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**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_The Arrival_2023_24x44inches
  - John Doe_Artist Statement_2023
- 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 judge the selection process for “The Arrival: The Beginning...The Fusion of the Indian Heritage” 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. All documents should be completed in advance and submitted with artwork.

10. **WHAT ARE THE GALLERY HOURS?** The gallery is open from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The exhibition will also be shown online @rotundagallerytt on Facebook and Instagram and by appointment for in-person viewing. To book an appointment, call 624-7275 ext. 2365/2299 or 701-6133.

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.


Discover Trinidad & Tobago. (2022, May 27). Indian arrival day. Discover Trinidad & Tobago. Retrieved March 29, 2023, from https://www.discovertnt.com/indian-arrival-day/#axzz7xMm8iGa9