



“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 **“Emancipation – The Journey to Redemption”**, in commemoration of Emancipation Day in Trinidad and Tobago. The Exhibition will be held from **31st July to 18th August 2023**.

Inspirational Tags

Trinidad and Tobago; African Diaspora; African Culture; African Heritage; Cultural Heritage; Cultural Legacy; African Cuisine; Ground Provision; Okra; Coo Coo; Oil Down; African Festivals; African Religion; Orisha; Spiritual Baptist; African Music; African Musical Instruments; Drums; Rattles; African Dance; Bongo; Shango; Kalinda; Limbo; African Fashion; African Craft; Emancipation Day; African Traditions; African Rituals; African Dress, Tobago Heritage Festival; Tobago Jig.

The Vision

¹For 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.

²In 1823 abolitionists formed the Society for the Migration and Gradual Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Dominions to call for the emancipation of all those enslaved in the colonies. Among the Society's members were Wilberforce and the MP Thomas Fowell Buxton. On 1 August 1834, 750,000 slaves in the British West Indies formally became free.

Under pressure from Westminster, the legislative assemblies in the colonies abolished the apprenticeship system and full freedom was granted to all former slaves on 1 August 1838. On 1 August 1985 the government of Trinidad and Tobago declared Emancipation Day a national holiday to commemorate the abolition of slavery.

³This 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 indirect benefits of culture are accrued through the culturally informed and effective implementations of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Rotunda Gallery welcomes submissions that celebrate the African culture, heritage and contributions these slaves and their descendants brought to Trinidad and Tobago from Africa. These customs and practices have made a huge historic change to the cultural landscape of our twin island, 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	Tuesday 11 th July, 2023
Email Submission deadline of artwork and other supporting documents to rotundagallery@tparliament.org	Sunday 23 rd July, 2023
Selection Notification via email	Tuesday 25 th July, 2023
Submission of artwork at the Rotunda Gallery, Red House	Thursday 27 th and Saturday 29 th July, 2023
Collection of artworks from the Rotunda Gallery, Red House	Thursday 24 th August, 2023

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_2023_24x44inches
 - John Doe_Artist Statement_2023
- ❖ 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 resident 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?** 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.

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

² (No date) The West Indian colonies and emancipation - UK parliament. Available at: <https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/legislative scrutiny/parliament-and-empire/parliament-and-the-american-colonies-before-1765/the-west-indian-colonies-and-emancipation/> (Accessed: 10 July 2023).

³Culture: 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>