The Rotunda Gallery

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

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Artists & Collectors

The Rotunda Gallery is inviting submissions for “The Story, The Style, The Spectacle of Sailor Mas” in commemoration of Trinidad and Tobago Carnival celebrations. The exhibition will be held from Monday 5th February – Friday 1st March, 2024.

Inspirational Tags

Trinidad and Tobago Carnival; Sailor Mas; Traditional Sailor Costume; The Fireman; The Sees Bees Sailor; White Sailor; Fancy Sailor; King Sailor; Drunken Sailor; Free French Sailor; Redhead Sailor; Flour Bag Sailor; Head Mas Sailor; Sailor Dance; Bote Dance; Crab Dance; Rock de Boat Dance; Skip Jack Dance; Camel Walk; Marrico Dance; Pachanga Dance.

The Vision

With the contemporary evolution of mas, the Sailor Mas still remains relevant among Mas makers and masqueraders alike. Belmont is still the home base for the Mas character from which many Sailor bands operate and create themes and concepts to be displayed for the greatest show on earth. From its origins as a parody of military figures to the surreal imaginative doppelgänger, the sailor is and has remained a representation of creative power fuelling the true spirit of Carnival.
During World War II, British and American sailors had a heavy presence in Trinidad and ultimately inspired the creation of the Sailor Mas. The Sailor costume and behaviour was patterned after the actions akin to the naval sailors on our shores. These traditional sailors include, The Fireman, The White Sailor and The See Bees Sailor. While traditional Sailor mas maintained a close likeness to the seamen, its fancier derivatives such as the King Sailor and the Fancy Sailor posed a more surreal appearance. These two genres of the Sailor Mas, pioneered by the late George Harding, carried elaborate head pieces and were adorned with flashy medals and ribbons.

In addition to the Sailor’s ensemble, the performance was accompanied by dances unique to the character as well as songs sang without musical aid. The headquarters for the Sailor mas, Belmont Port of Spain, became home to many large Sailor Mas bands where strict confidentiality policies were upheld to keep themes away from rival bands before parade day. Despite the emergence of the “bikini and beads” era, Sailor Mas remains quite popular among old and young masqueraders.

The Rotunda Gallery welcomes submissions that showcase one or more of the Sailor Mas costumes. The pieces can also highlight the history and evolution of this particular Carnival character and also the making of the costume.

**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 to citizens/residents of Trinidad and Tobago.
- There is no submission fee, but artists and collectors will be responsible for framing, transport, and insurance of their artwork.

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1 The costume, which is relatively lightweight and inexpensive when compared to other traditional Carnival costumes, typically consists of a beret with the name of the ship on the rim of the beret, a tight-fitting short sleeve bow-necked striped jersey, bell-bottomed Melton pants, and black or white shoes.
No nudity, sexual content, violence, hatred, or propaganda allowed.

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

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<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Call for Submissions</td>
<td>Thursday 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; January, 2024</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 28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; January, 2024</td>
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<td>Selection Notification via email</td>
<td>Tuesday 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; January, 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission of artwork at the Rotunda Gallery, Red House</td>
<td>Saturday 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; February, 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for collection of artworks from the Rotunda Gallery, Red House</td>
<td>Thursday 7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March, 2024</td>
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### Submission Guidelines and Requirements

- Proof of Trinidad and Tobago citizenship/residence (National ID/DP/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](mailto:rotundagallery@ttparliament.org) in MS Word format and images of work must be in JPEG format. See title examples below on how to name files:
  - John Doe_National ID
Collectors must submit proof of ownership of the artwork being submitted.

All artwork submitted must be authentic, original and done by the artist submitting the work.

You are required to submit the title, medium, year, size, and price of artwork.

The Selection Process
The Office of the Parliament Rotunda Gallery Committee will judge the selection process for “The Story, The Style, The Spectacle of Sailor Mas” Exhibition.

Frequently Asked Questions for Exhibitions at the Rotunda Gallery

1. **WHO CAN SUBMIT WORKS?** Any citizen/resident of Trinidad and Tobago.

   WHAT CAN I SUBMIT? Artists and collectors can submit up to three (3) pieces of work in any medium of visual arts which includes painting, photography, drawing, prints, fabric art, collage, installation art, digital art or other. No nudity, sexual content, violence, hatred, or propaganda. Unsuitable works will not be accepted.

2. **I CANNOT COMPLETE ARTWORK BY THE DEADLINE, ARE THERE ANY OTHER OPPORTUNITIES?** Yes, the Rotunda Gallery exists as 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.

3. **HOW MANY WORKS CAN I SUBMIT?** Artists and collectors may submit up to THREE (3) pieces of artwork unless specific permission has been granted to submit a collection.
4. **WHAT IS THE SIZE LIMITATION?** The maximum size is 60 inches in height and 72 inches in width.

5. **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.

6. **HOW WILL I KNOW WHETHER MY WORK HAS BEEN SELECTED?** You will receive an email informing you of the status of your submission.

7. **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.

8. **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.

9. **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.

10. **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.