



# *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 **“Restore the Earth: Eliminate Plastic Pollution”** in commemoration of International Earth Day which is celebrated annually on April 22. The exhibition will be held from **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2024.**

### **Inspirational Tags**

Trinidad and Tobago; Earth Day; Planet Vs. Plastics; Protecting the Planet; Ecological Balance; Human Impact on the Environment; Biodiversity Conservation; Climate Action; Environmental Conservation; Ecosystem Conservation; Forest Conservation; Ocean Conservation; End Plastic Pollution; No Littering; Zero Waste; Green Technology; Sustainable Innovation; Recycle; Reuse; Reduce

### **The Vision**

International Earth Day, celebrated annually on April 22, seeks to promote its core principles, reduce, reuse, and recycle, through various themes and specific topics pertaining to the preservation of the planet. This year's theme is **“Planet Vs. Plastics”**, which will highlight the holistic impact of non-reusable plastics on the globe. This includes the impact of plastics on human health, the global climate, and, the natural environment, flora and fauna. To reverse and repair the damage caused by plastic waste, it is crucial that all regions of the global community participate.

Most plastic material are made from petrochemical, a derivative of fossil fuels, gas, oil and coal which are all major contributors to the climate crisis. Despite the urgent need to address this issue, major petrochemical industries have made little to no effort into reducing the production of plastics. This threatens the chances of controlling devastating effects of climate change such as the rise in temperature. Without proper initiatives to mitigate the climate crisis, by 2050, the consequences of improper plastic disposal and production include the generation of greenhouse gases equivalent to 615 coal plants annually using 13% of Earth's remaining carbon budget.

To reverse and prevent the damage to the planet due to plastic waste, a global effort is crucial. This exhibition theme is in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, that being: Goal #6 - "*Clean Water and Sanitation*", Goal #12 - "*Sustainable Consumption and Production*", Goal #13 - "*Climate Action*". The Caribbean Region, although small, contributes greatly to plastic pollution with 12% of the region's solid waste representing plastics alone, and, over 320,000 tons of plastics remains uncollected yearly in the Caribbean. Of the top thirty global polluters per capita, ten are from the Caribbean region. These are Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua & Barbuda, St. Kitts & Nevis, Guyana, Barbados, St. Lucia, Bahamas, Grenada, Anguilla and Aruba. The improper disposal of plastic waste in the region remains a threat to the natural environment indirectly impacting the economy.

Unfortunately, plastic pollution has made its way to all oceans, freshwater ways and land masses across the globe. Due to its chemical make-up, plastics never benignly degrades and later becomes smaller pieces equally as toxic. Plastics have been linked to many diseases and health complications such as cancer, diabetes, obesity, reproductive and even respiratory issues. The Rotunda Gallery welcomes submissions that include some sort of recycled plastic and pieces should reflect the impact that plastic pollution has on the planet and by extension the land, oceans and humans.

## **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.
- ❖ 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

Activity	Date
Call for Submissions	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February, 2024
Email Submission deadline of artwork and other supporting documents to <a href="mailto:rotundagallery@tparliament.org">rotundagallery@tparliament.org</a>	Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2024
Selection Notification via email	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April, 2024
Submission of artwork at the Rotunda Gallery, Red House	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> April, 2024
Deadline for collection of artworks from the Rotunda Gallery, Red House	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May, 2024

## 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@tparliament.org](mailto:rotundagallery@tparliament.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
  - John Doe\_Earth Day\_2024\_24x44inches
  - John Doe\_Artist Statement\_2024
- ❖ 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 “**Restore the Earth: Eliminate Plastic Pollution**” 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. 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.

*The Plastic Pollution Crisis* (2022) IUCN. Available at: <https://www.iucn.org/story/202207/plastic-pollution-crisis> (Accessed: 23 February 2024).

*Addressing plastic pollution in the Caribbean* (no date) World Bank. Available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/infographic/2023/06/05/addressing-plastic-pollution-in-the-caribbean#:~:text=Over%20320%2C000%20tons%20of%20plastic,kilometer%2C%20compared%20to%20573%20worldwide> (Accessed: 23 February 2024).

Ewing-Chow, D. (2019) *Caribbean islands are the biggest plastic polluters per capita in the world*, *Forbes*. Available at: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/daphneewingchow/2019/09/20/caribbean-islands-are-the-biggest-plastic-polluters-per-capita-in-the-world/?sh=64b12473774b> (Accessed: 23 February 2024).

World Bank Group (2024) *Tackling the plastics pollution crisis by channeling private capital to projects that reduce plastic waste*, *World Bank*. Available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2024/01/25/tackling-the-plastics-pollution-crisis-by-channeling-private-capital-to-projects-that-reduce-plastic-waste#:~:text=The%20World%20Bank%20is%20supporting,and%20enabling%20a%20circular%20economy> (Accessed: 23 February 2024).