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 our exhibition titled **"Free Form: A Representation of Life".** The exhibition will be held from **Monday 27th May – Friday 21st June, 2024.**

Inspirational Tags

Abstract Art; Creative Expression; Emotional Expression; Abstract Expressionism; Fine Art; Interpretive View; Textured Art; Abstract Artists; Imaginative Art; Conceptual Art; Unconventional Media; Self-Expression; Impressionism; Theoretical; Modern Art; Contemporary Art; Surrealism; Purposeful Ambiguity; Sub-conscious Expression; Geometric Shapes; Colour; Pattern; Lines; Cubism; Neo-Expressionism; Colour Field Painting; Afro-Futurism.

The Vision

Abstract art provides a unique avenue for individuals to express themselves in ways that may transcend the constraints of language and representation. Unlike representational art, which aims to depict recognizable objects or scenes, abstract art delves into the realm of emotions, concepts, and the subconscious mind. Through the use of shapes, colours, lines and textures, abstract artists convey their innermost

thoughts, feelings and experiences, inviting viewers to interpret and connect with the artwork on a personal level.

Abstract art is an overarching term broadly describing various art movements. It seeks to communicate this through the artist's use of rough brush strokes, geometric shapes, both three and two dimensional, and through the use of unconventional media and surfaces for interpretive view and discussion. In contrast, the focal point of this type of expression can be aesthetics with the use of colour theory and principles of art such as balance, movement, pattern, rhythm and unity/variety for a successful visual impact. The evolution of abstract art made way for movements such as Abstract Expressionism[1], Neo Expressionism[2], Cubism[3], Colour Field painting[4], Afro-Futurism[5] and many others. These movements, spawned many legendary artists and artwork such as Pablo Picasso's "Les Demoiselles d'Avignon," Mark Rothko's "Orange, Red, Yellow," Jean Michel Basquiat's "Dustheads," Marcel Duchamp's "Fountain," and Lina Iris Viktor's "Syzygy." All sub-genres carry the motif of images of intentional ambiguity.

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 to showcase their expression and creativity.

[1] A development of abstract art which originated in New York in the 1940s and 1950s and aimed at subjective emotional expression with particular emphasis on the spontaneous creative act (e.g. action painting).
[2] The art style embraces abstraction and expresses such with rough, bold brush strokes, highly textural applications of paint and satirical script rejecting traditional composition.
[3] The Cubist art style's motif is the use of two-dimensional geometrical shapes rejecting traditional elements such as perspective, modelling or foreshortening.
[4] It was inspired by European modernism and closely related to abstract expressionism. This style displays segments of bold colours either blended at their juncture or separated by bold or imaginary lines between colours.
[5] Afro-futurism is a genre which seeks to highlight Afrocentrism in a surrealist manner incorporating imagery akin to science fiction, futuristic elements into literature, music and the visual arts. The imagery in this sub-genre of abstract art embraces imagination, liberation, mysticism and technology

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	**Tuesday 23rd April, 2024**
Email Submission deadline of artwork and other supporting documents to rotundagallery@ttparliament.org	**Sunday 19th May, 2024**
Selection Notification via email	**Tuesday 21st May, 2024**
Submission of artwork at the Rotunda Gallery, Red House	**Saturday 25th May, 2024**
Deadline for collection of artworks from the Rotunda Gallery, Red House	**Thursday 27th June, 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@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
    - John Doe_Free Form_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 **"Free Form: A Representation of Life"** Exhibition.

Frequently Asked Questions for Exhibitions at the Rotunda Gallery

1. **WHO CAN SUBMIT WORKS?** Any citizen/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 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.

3. **I CANNOT COMPLETE ARTWORK BY THE DEADLINE, ARE THERE ANY OTHER OPPORTUNITIES?** Yes, the Rotunda Gallery exists as an 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 Call 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. 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. to facilitate walk-ins or scheduled appointments. The exhibition will also be shown online @rotundagallerytt on Facebook and Instagram. To book an appointment, call 624-7275 ext. 2365/2314 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.