



# *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 **"Percussion – The Sounds of Steelpan"** in commemoration of World Steelpan Day which is celebrated on August 11<sup>th</sup>. The exhibition will be held from **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July– Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2024.**

### **Inspirational Tags**

Steelpan; Steel Drum; Double Second; Tenor Pan; Six Bass; Four Bass; Engine Room; Steel Orchestra; Guitar Pan; Cello Pan; Steel Band; World Steelpan Day; Panorama; Lennox "Boogsie" Sharpe; Winston "Spree" Simon; Elliot "Ellie" Manette; Anthony "Muffman" Williams; Jit Samaroo; Patricia "Pat" Bishop; Ken "Professor" Philmore; Ray Holman; Tamboo Bamboo; Flag Woman; Iron Man; North Stand; Savannah; Ping Pong; Bottle and Spoon; Ramajay; Pan Trinbago

### **The Vision**

The steelpan is a percussion instrument originating in Trinidad and Tobago. Invented in the 1930s, the steelpan was inspired by a ban on unlicensed percussion, string and wood-wind instruments used for Carnival celebrations. This led to the creation of the

“Tamboo Bamboo”<sup>1</sup> which was later replaced by the creation the steel drum due to several issues arising from the use of bamboo. The steelpan is played with a pair of sticks tipped with rubber, which vary in size according to the type of steel drum. Forged from under-privileged urban areas in Port of Spain, the steelpan is now an internationally recognized percussion instrument that contributes to our society culturally, socially and economically.

Born out of this was the modern steelband or steel orchestra, which consists of many variations of the steel drum such as the Tenor Pan, Double Second Pan, Six Bass Pan, Four Bass Pan, The Guitar Pan, and The Cello Pan. These instruments differ in size, depth and width, which dictates sound once struck. Its finish also manipulates sound. The modern steelband can successfully reproduce the compositions of pop, jazz, calypso, and other musical forms. In addition, from its inception came many prolific composers such as Lennox “Boogsie” Sharpe, founder of Phase II Pan Groove, Winston “De Fosto” Scarborough, Ellie Mannette and Duvone Dwayne Stewart.

To celebrate this instrument, in 2022, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago sent a formal request to the UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization) to designate August 11<sup>th</sup> as World Steelpan Day. Acknowledging the significant impact and potential the steel pan has for cultural, social and economic development, the General Assembly obliged.

This celebration is significant as it reinforces the important role the steelpan plays in our society locally, regionally and globally. Through this acknowledgment, the Rotunda Gallery is determined to give artists the opportunity to promote the evolution of the steelpan and by extension the steel orchestra. Highlighting the history and the significant pioneers that shaped this musical art form. The steelpan’s genesis remains a crucial part of the identity of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, which is admired and adapted by many internationally.

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<sup>1</sup> The Tamboo-Bamboo was made from bamboo cut to various lengths and its sound was produced by stamping onto the ground.

## 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 12 <sup>th</sup> June, 2024
Email Submission deadline of artwork and other supporting documents to <a href="mailto:rotundagallery@tparliament.org">rotundagallery@tparliament.org</a>	Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> July, 2024
Selection Notification via email	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July, 2024
Submission of artwork at the Rotunda Gallery, Red House	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> May, 2024
Deadline for collection of artworks from the Rotunda Gallery, Red House	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August, 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@ttrparliament.org](mailto:rotundagallery@ttrparliament.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\_Steelpan 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 “**Percussion – The Sounds of Steelpan**” 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.