THE ROTUNDA GALLERY

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 **"Myths & Memories – Where Folklore and Superstitions Meet"** in representation of the history of folklore and superstitions of Trinidad and Tobago. The exhibition will be held from **Monday 20th October – Friday 14th November 2025.**

Inspirational Tags

Trinidad and Tobago; Culture; Cultural beliefs; Cultural Practices; Preservation of Heritage; Preservation of Culture; Legends; Myths; Folktales; Folklore in Trinidad and Tobago; Folklore Characters; Papa Bois; Mama D'leau; Douen; La Diablesse; Soucouyant; Anansi; Lagahoo; Fairy-Maids; Tobago Mermiads; Gang Gang Sara; Silk Cotton Tree; Superstitions; Obeah; Bad Luck Superstitions; Good Luck Superstitions; Relationship Superstitions; Health Superstitions; Superstitious Beliefs; Maljeux; Jumbie; Blight; Bush Bath; Bad Eye; Jharay; Les Coteaux.

The Vision

For generations, the folklore and superstitions of Trinidad and Tobago have served as more than just stories. They are living testaments of our nation's cultural memory — woven from the threads of African, Indian, European, Indigenous, and Chinese traditions. From the haunting cry of the Soucouyant and the mysterious presence of

the La Diablesse, to the mischievous wit of Anansi and the protective rituals of salt, prayers, and charms—our folklore has shaped the way we see the world and taught us lessons about morality, community, and survival.

These tales once whispered under moonlit skies or shared around family gatherings, carry wisdom, warnings, and wonder. They remind us of a time when oral storytelling was a bridge between generations, keeping culture alive through imagination and performance. In today's fast-changing world, these traditions remain vital. They connect us to our ancestors, strengthen our sense of identity, and celebrate the unique spirit of Trinidad and Tobago.

This exhibition aligns with several key United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, including *SDG4 - Quality Education* - by encouraging intergenerational learning through the preservation and reinterpretation of folklore and oral traditions. *SDG11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities*— by safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and promoting community identity through art and storytelling. *SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals* – by uniting artists, cultural institutions, and communities to keep heritage alive.

This exhibition invites artists to reimagine and reinterpret the folklore and superstitions of our islands. The Rotunda Gallery welcomes submissions of artworks that represent the symbolism and meaning behind superstitions that shape our lives, local mythical figures and legends and the importance of passing down these stories/superstitions to future generations. The pieces submitted must include a folklore character or superstition specific to Trinidad and Tobago, whether by honouring traditional depictions or envisioning them in new, contemporary forms. The goal is to celebrate folklore as not only part of our past, but as an enduring force in our present and future.

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	**Monday 15th September, 2025**
Email Submission deadline of artwork and other supporting documents to rotundagallery@ttparliament.org	**Sunday 12th October, 2025**
Selection Notification via email	**Tuesday 14th October, 2025**

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 should be at least 300 dpi.
- Artists can submit a **MAXIMUM** of 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_ Myths_Memories_2025_24x44inches
    - John Doe_Artist Statement_2025
- 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 **"Myths & Memories – Where Folklore and Superstitions Meet"** 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, sculpture, 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 Tik Tok 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., Mondays to Fridays to facilitate walk-ins or scheduled appointments. The exhibition will be shown online @rotundagallerytt on Facebook and

@rotundagallery on Instagram and Tik Tok. To book an appointment, call 624-7275 ext. 2314/2365 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.

Caribbean folklore (part 1). NALIS. (2023, November 9). https://www.nalis.gov.tt/blog/caribbean-folklore-part-1/

Caribbean folklore (part 3). NALIS. (2023b, November 8). https://www.nalis.gov.tt/blog/caribbean-folklore-part-3/

Gerard A. Besson - Caribbean Historian. (1970, January 1). Trinidad's folklore and legends. The Caribbean History Archives. https://caribbeanhistoryarchives.blogspot.com/2011/08/trinidads-folklore-and-legends.html