

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 **"Three Colours: Unlimited Expressions"**. The exhibition will be held from **Monday 26th October – Friday 4th December 2026**.

Inspirational Tags

Three Colour Art; Limited Colour Palette; Colour Exploration; Colour Harmony; Colour Theory; Colour Relationships; Colour Contrast; Colour and Mood; Colour and Emotion; Colour Psychology; Abstract Art; Figurative Art; Contemporary Art; Fine Art; Acrylic Painting; Oil Painting; Watercolour; Mixed Media; Digital Art; Photography; Drawing; Illustration; Sketching; Sculpture.

The Vision

The earliest documented theory of colour is from the Greek philosopher Aristotle (384–322 BCE), who suggested that all colours came from white and black. He also believed that four basic colours represent elements of the world: red (fire), blue (air), green (water), and grey (earth). It was the British physicist and mathematician Isaac Newton (1642–1727) who figured out that clear light was made up of seven visible colours: what we call ROYGBIV of the rainbow (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet).

Colours today are defined by three measurable attributes: hue, value, and chroma or intensity. The “Peter Mark Roget” of colour, Boston artist and teacher Albert Henry Munsell¹ (1858–1918) scientifically operationalized those attributes.

What can you create when colour is limited?

Colour² is one of the most powerful tools available to an artist. It can evoke emotion, create a mood or particular atmosphere, create a movement, draw your attention, and shape the way we experience or interact with artwork. Yet what happens when an artist creates artwork without the freedom of an unlimited palette?

This exhibition explores the creative possibilities that emerge when artists are asked to work within a defined limitation. Rather than viewing this limitation as a barrier, the exhibition should challenge the artist, by considering it an opportunity to experiment, and be intentional with artist’s decision-making. The artist is now free to explore the possibilities of composition, mood, expression and colour within a deliberately restricted palette. It will therefore demonstrate that creative expression does not require an abundance of colour but rather thoughtful and intentional choices.

For this exhibition, artists will be challenged to create works using **a maximum of three colours**, with the addition of white and black to be incorporated where necessary. There are no restrictions on the subject matter. Artists are encouraged to **interpret the concept in their own way**. Whether through abstraction, portraiture, landscape, still life, figurative work, mixed media or other artistic approaches, the focus is on how the artist uses the limited palette to create an engaging visual experience. Artists must clearly state which colours were used in their submission.

¹ Albert Henry Munsell scientifically organized and catalogued the human experience of colour.

² Colour is the element of art that is produced when light, striking an object, is reflected back to the eye: that is the objective definition. However, in art design, colour has a slew of attributes that are primarily subjective. Those include characteristics such as harmony — when two or more colours are brought together and produce a satisfying effective response; and temperature a blue is considered warm or cool depending on whether it leans towards purple or green and a red whether it leans towards yellow or blue.

By limiting the palette, artists are encouraged to consider how colour relationships, contrast, tone, value, texture, form and composition can transform an artwork and how it communicates an idea, emotion or story. Artists are encouraged to use the limitation as an opportunity to experiment, challenge conventional approaches to colour and discover new possibilities within a restricted palette. The Rotunda Gallery invites you to explore the possibilities.

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 21 st September, 2026
Email Submission deadline of artwork and other supporting documents to rotundagallery@tpparliament.org	Sunday 18 th October, 2026
Selection Notification via email	Tuesday 20 th October, 2026

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.
- ❖ **Artists can submit a MAXIMUM of three (3) pieces of work.**
- ❖ Documents must be submitted electronically to rotundagallery@ttdparliament.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_Three Colours_2026_24x44inches
 - John Doe_Artist Biography_2026
- ❖ 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 “**Three Colours: Unlimited Expressions**” 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, 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 TikTok 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., Monday to Friday, to facilitate walk-ins or scheduled appointments. The exhibition will also be shown online @rotundagallerytt on Facebook and rotundagallery Instagram and TikTok. 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.

Esaak, S. (2019). How Is Color Defined in Art? ThoughtCo. <https://www.thoughtco.com/definition-of-color-in-art-182429>

Christensen, I. (2019, June 21). Artists Only Need 4 Colors to Create Compelling Paintings. Artsy. <https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-4-colors-excel-painting>

De Masi, L. (2023, November 6). The benefits of using a limited colour palette. Louise De Masi Watercolour Artist. <https://www.louisedemasi.com/tips/2023/11/6/benefits-of-using-a-limited-colour-palette?srsId=AfmBOop5UCH7woK2tR1h5ODg4bWfACpmGKJ2FoY-JsSdmroa5pgSmNA>

Grant, M. (2025, August 12). A limited color palette makes your art BETTER! Melanie Grant. <https://www.melaniegrantdesign.com/post/a-limited-color-palette-makes-your-art-better>