



# *“The Rotunda Gallery”*

*A display of Trinidad and Tobago’s cultural and political heritage*

## **CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

**Artists & Collectors**

The Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is inviting submissions for our **Virtual Exhibition: “The Crossing of Oceans...The Legacy of a Diaspora”**, in commemoration of Indian Arrival Day in Trinidad and Tobago. The Exhibition will be held from **24<sup>th</sup> May - 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2021**.

### **The Vision**

<sup>1</sup>Indian Arrival Day, celebrated on 30<sup>th</sup> May, commemorates the arrival of the first Indian Indentured labourers to Trinidad, in May 1845, on the ship *Fatel Razack*. The *Fatel Razack* brought not only a new labour force to assist in the economic development of Trinidad, but also a new people with a new culture.

While this momentous event has been celebrated among the East Indian community in Trinidad and Tobago for many years, it was not until 1994 that it was made an official public holiday. It was called Arrival Day. In 1995, it was re-named Indian Arrival Day. On 30<sup>th</sup> May each year, the re-enactment of the arrival of the *Fatel Razack* is staged at various beaches throughout Trinidad and Tobago. There is also music and dance, and outstanding members of the community are honoured for their contributions to society.

Indian Immigration to Trinidad spanned the period 1845-1917. During this period over 140,000 Indians were transported to the island. The journey was long and arduous and living conditions were deplorable. After disembarking at Nelson Island, the arrivals were fed and rested for a couple of weeks then sent to the various estates.

*“Culture is who we are, and what shapes our identity. Placing culture at the heart of development policies is the only way to ensure a human-centred, inclusive, and equitable development” - Jyoti Hosagrahar.*

<sup>2</sup>Within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in September 2015 by the United Nations, the international development agenda refers to culture for the first time. This has been lauded by UNESCO as “an unparalleled recognition”. The safeguarding and promotion of culture is an end, and at the same time it contributes directly to many of the SDGs – safe and sustainable cities, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities, the environment, promoting gender equality and peaceful and inclusive societies. The indirect benefits of culture are accrued through the culturally informed and effective implementations of the development goals.

<sup>1</sup>Indian Arrival Day. (2021). Retrieved 16 April 2021, from <https://www.nalis.gov.tt/Resources/Subject-Guide/Indian-Arrival-Day#:~:text=Indian%20Arrival%20Day%2C%20celebrated%20on,people%20with%20a%20new%20culture.>

<sup>2</sup>Culture: at the heart of SDGs. (2021). Retrieved 19 April 2021, from <https://en.unesco.org/courier/april-june-2017/culture-heart-sdgs#:~:text=Culture%20has%20a%20crucial%20role,its%20formal%20introduction%20in>

The Rotunda Gallery welcomes submissions that celebrate the East Indian culture which is a pivotal component of the cultural diversity of Trinidad and Tobago.

### **Inspirational Tags**

Parliament; Indian Diaspora; East Indian culture; Cultural Heritage; Cultural Legacy; Indian Dishes; Saris; Salwaar Kameez; Dhoti; Saheena; Paratha; Fatel Razack; Indian Arrival Day; Ancient Traditions; Trinidad and Tobago.

## 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 **only** to nationals 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 sexual content, violence, hatred, or propaganda.
- ❖ 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  | Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> April, 2021                                 |
| Email Submission deadline of artwork and other supporting documents to <a href="mailto:rotundagallery@tparliament.org">rotundagallery@tparliament.org</a> | Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> May, 2021                                     |
| Selection Notification via email  | Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> May, 2021                                    |
| Submission of artwork at the Rotunda Gallery, Red House   | Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> May and Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May, 2021 |
| Collection of artworks from the Rotunda Gallery, Red House  | Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June, 2021                                 |

## Submission Guidelines and Requirements

- ❖ Proof of Trinidad and Tobago citizenship (National ID or 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](mailto:rotundagallery@ttparliament.org) in Word format and images of work must be in .JPEG format. See title examples below:
  - John Doe\_National ID
  - John Doe\_Indian Arrival Day\_2021\_24x44inches
  - John Doe\_Artist Statement\_2021
- ❖ Collectors must submit proof of ownership of the artwork.

### **The Selection Process**

Office of the Parliament Rotunda Gallery Committee will select artwork for the Indian Arrival Day Virtual Exhibition.

### **Frequently Asked Questions for Exhibitions at the Rotunda Gallery**

1. **WHO CAN SUBMIT WORKS?** Any citizen of Trinidad and Tobago.
2. **WHAT CAN I SUBMIT?** Artists and collectors can submit up to three (3) pieces of work in any medium or genre of visual arts which includes, painting, photography, drawing, sculpture, prints, fabric art, collage, installation art, digital art or other. **No 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 will be 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.

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. Both documents should be completed in advance and submitted with artwork.
10. **WHAT ARE THE GALLERY HOURS?** Due to current restrictions, visitors are not allowed at this time, so the exhibition and tours will be strictly online and virtual.

**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.