

MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE

School of Fine Arts

43rd Salon de Mai
(24 July – 22 August 2026)

Theme: “REFLECTION”.

The Mahatma Gandhi Institute is organising its 43rd Salon de Mai from 24 July - 22 August 2026. Artists of the Republic of Mauritius are invited to participate. The proposed theme is “**Reflection**”:

“Reflection” is a deliberate act of turning inward - to examine, interpret, and give meaning to experience. It is the art of seeing with the mind, a conscious pause in an age of acceleration.

Today, both individually and collectively, we are navigating unprecedented complexity. Across nations and communities, we are battered by overlapping storms: femicides, drug abuse, violence, road accidents, inflation, and the climate emergency. These are not abstract headlines or distant concerns - they are urgent realities pressing against our daily lives, demanding immediate action and moral clarity.

We live in a world where crises multiply and collide, leaving little room for silence or contemplation. Reflection becomes not a luxury, but a necessity - a way to resist numbness, to reclaim awareness, and to confront the forces that threaten our humanity.

Globally, the picture is equally turbulent: geopolitical instability, escalating wars, climate breakdown, entrenched poverty, widening inequalities, and fragile economies. Humanity stands at a crossroad, torn between collapse and renewal.

Paradoxically, we also live in an era of extraordinary progress. Advances in renewable energy, gene therapy, and communication technologies remind us that innovation can coexist with crisis. At the same time, we are witnessing the meteoric rise of artificial intelligence, which will continue to evolve. It is time to reflect and ask ourselves: where are the limits? Will artificial intelligence diminish our capacity for reflection?

AI promises efficiency, speed, and automation, but it also risks eroding essential human faculties - contemplation, empathy, and moral judgment. Reflection requires slowness, doubt, imagination, and lived experience - qualities that algorithms are not designed to nurture.

If societies outsource thinking to machines, what happens to our ability to question injustice, to imagine alternatives, to feel responsibility for one another? A world without reflection risks becoming a world without conscience.

At this decisive moment, we call upon artists not simply to observe, but to rise. Not only to reflect, but to provoke reflection in others - to awaken society to the realities around us. Art must become more than expression: it must be a weapon against indifference, a beacon of conscience, and a force that challenges injustice while envisioning futures beyond despair.

*In a divided world, artists must stand as voices of resistance and architects of hope. Through “**Reflection**”, they can confront injustice, affirm dignity, and reimagine harmony - shaping a society where life is not merely sustained, but consciously valued and made worth living for all.*

General rules for participation: -

1. All artworks have to be **original** and never been exhibited before.
2. The organising team will be responsible for **allocation of space**. Each artist will be allocated a space of approximately **2 metres wide**. Artist who requires specific **space** may send their request to the organisers in their application form.
3. Artworks should be submitted with all **display fittings** for the exhibition. Participants have to cater for all their own materials for the display and provide all relevant information in the participation form.
4. Artists showcasing **installations or artwork consisting of more than one piece** have to display their work personally on agreed date and time.
5. Artworks should be submitted to the SFA Office as from **13 -18 July 2026** during working hours (Monday – Friday 10.00 -15.00 hrs and Saturdays 9.00 -11.00 hrs).
6. Participants will be responsible for the **transportation of the artwork** to and from the venue. Participants are requested to remove and collect their artworks between 24 - 29 August 2026 during office hours (Monday – Friday 10.00 - 15.00 hrs and Saturdays 9.00 -11.00 hrs)
7. Artworks displayed will be covered by a **nominal insurance** during the exhibition. Works not collected after 30 August 2026 will not be covered by insurance and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute will not be liable for any loss and/or damage of the exhibit.
8. The Mahatma Gandhi Institute reserves the right to reproduce the selected artwork for advertising and promotional purposes.
9. The Mahatma Gandhi Institute reserves the right not to accept artworks deemed inappropriate for the exhibition.
10. A **levy of 15%** will be retained on any sold work.

Participants will have to send their application either by email (salondemai@mgirti.ac.mu) or by post to the **Mahatma Gandhi Institute, School of Fine Arts, Moka**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Hard copies of the participation form will be available at the School of Fine Arts, Mahatma Gandhi Institute and same can be downloaded from the Mahatma Gandhi Institute's website (<https://www.mgirti.ac.mu>).

Criteria for regular participant

- Artists will have to submit their **participation form** by Monday 1st June 2026.
- Artists are requested to **submit their work ready for display** between 13 - 18 July 2026 during working hours (Monday - Friday 10.00 - 15.00 hrs and Saturdays 9.00 -11.00).

Criteria for new participants

- Application procedures apply to artists who have not participated in more than three editions of Salon de Mai.
- A panel will be responsible for the selection of proposals. Only one will be selected. The final work for the exhibition submitted must be close to the selected proposal. The decision of the panel will be final and without appeal.
- Participants should be a Resident of Mauritius and should have at least:

A minimum of 3 years of study from a recognized Art Institution + participation in group & solo exhibitions.

Or

Ten years' of experience as practicing artist with participation in group or solo exhibitions.

- New participants should send their application forms accompanied by all relevant information and documents mentioned in the form.

Closing dates for submission of application forms for new participants

All application forms and related documents must be submitted to the School of Fine Arts by 8th June 2026 for selection. Selection announcement will be made by 11 June 2026 and selected artists will submit their works ready for display at latest by 18 July 2026 before 15 00 hrs.

14 May 2026