

Rita Blitt was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and at age 10 and 11, she won a scholarship for Saturday classes at the Kansas City Art Institute. She attended the University of Illinois and graduated from the University of Missouri, Kansas City in 1952 with a bachelor of arts degree. In 1953 and 1955, she again attended the Kansas City Art Institute where she studied painting. She is an award-winning painter, sculptor and filmmaker, whose words “Kindness is contagious. Catch it!” have inspired people all over the world.

Her works are included in many museums and private collections, including: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, John F. Kennedy Library, National Museum of Singapore, Spencer Museum of Art, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Nevada Museum of Art, Spertus Institute, Skirball Cultural Center, Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, Kennedy Museum of American Art and the Mulvane Art Museum. Her monumental sculpture can be found in Australia, Israel, Japan, Singapore and the United States.

Blitt’s work celebrates love of life, nature, music and dance. To describe her work, in 1977, she wrote “I feel like I’m dancing on paper.”

The Rita Blitt Gallery and Sculpture Garden at the Mulvane Art Museum on Washburn University’s campus opened in November 2017 and is the home of the Rita Blitt Legacy Collection.