

## Passionate Gestures: Painting and Sculpture by Rita Blitt

CitiScapes

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Curving lines sweep across canvases, masonite and paper, and undulate through bronze, aluminum, wood and steel in a spontaneous flow of movement. The elegantly rendered artwork of internationally recognized artist Rita Blitt radiates with energy and joy. In an artistic career that spans more than 60 years, Blitt has been affected by nature, dance, music and Zen influences. Her abstract expressionist style offers the freedom to express oneself without restrictions.

The many media incorporated into her artwork reflect the mastery of Blitt's formative process and artistic touch. The majority of her work begins with both hands moving simultaneously in a gestural motion to capture her passionate response. The drawn gesture journeys from material to material, maintaining a powerful connectedness that translates beautifully in both a two-dimensional and three-dimensional format. Sculptural concept drawings spatially transform into their three-dimensional shape. Each rendered sculpture becomes diverse as the size and medium change, yet all maintain the rhythmic movement that originated in its drawn form. Black lines and luminous color dance from paper, masonite and canvas, gracefully illuminating Blitt's visualization of literary, dance and musical inspirations. When describing her creative process Blitt has said, "It is a magic moment when that line comes out of my hand or two hands simultaneously. I feel like I'm dancing..."

As she captures each form's choreography, Blitt delves into her inner thoughts. With eyes closed and arms moving, the artist discovers a wondrous spirit that translates into notions of optimism and joie de vive. With each mark made, Blitt builds form and space rhythmically. The graceful expression of natural movement and sound engenders concepts of peace as the cyclical marks interact harmoniously.

Blitt's creativity saw an early development in Kansas City, Missouri at the age of ten when she received a scholarship to attend Saturday classes at the Kansas City Art Institute. Prior to receiving her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, Blitt studied for two years at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. As a post graduate, Blitt again attended class at the Kansas City Art Institute. Her work is collected internationally including public installations, and museum and private collections in Australia, Germany, Israel, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan and throughout the United States.