

Rita Blitt

Art Gallery
April 1984

When Rita Blitt was a little girl, she and her grandfather, who lived in New York, would exchange letters with drawing at the bottom. Those drawing, Blitt remembers, "...were fanciful line drawings, like the flower designs my grandfather made for embroidery patterns."

Today Rita Blitt is an accomplished artist/sculptor whose works range from small austere black and white line drawings or doodles to twenty-six foot painted steel sculptures and include pastels and paintings.

"In 1975 I created a sculpture which came from a little doodle. I looked at that sculpture and realized the original doodle was really me. I began letting doodle drawings flow from me by the hundreds. The doodles became like the flow of dance and music This is what is really important to me. Then in 1977 I began drawing with two hands at once – and ever since then I have felt like I was dancing on paper." Blitt adds that everything she has created since 1976 including her sculpture up to 26 feet in height to her small pastel drawings has come from her line drawings, -- her doodles.

A native Kansas Citian, Blitt's work has been highly visible both in Kansas City as well as many other parts of the country through her shopping center sculptures and gallery exhibitions. Blitt, who attended the University of Illinois and the Kansas City Art Institute, received her BA from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

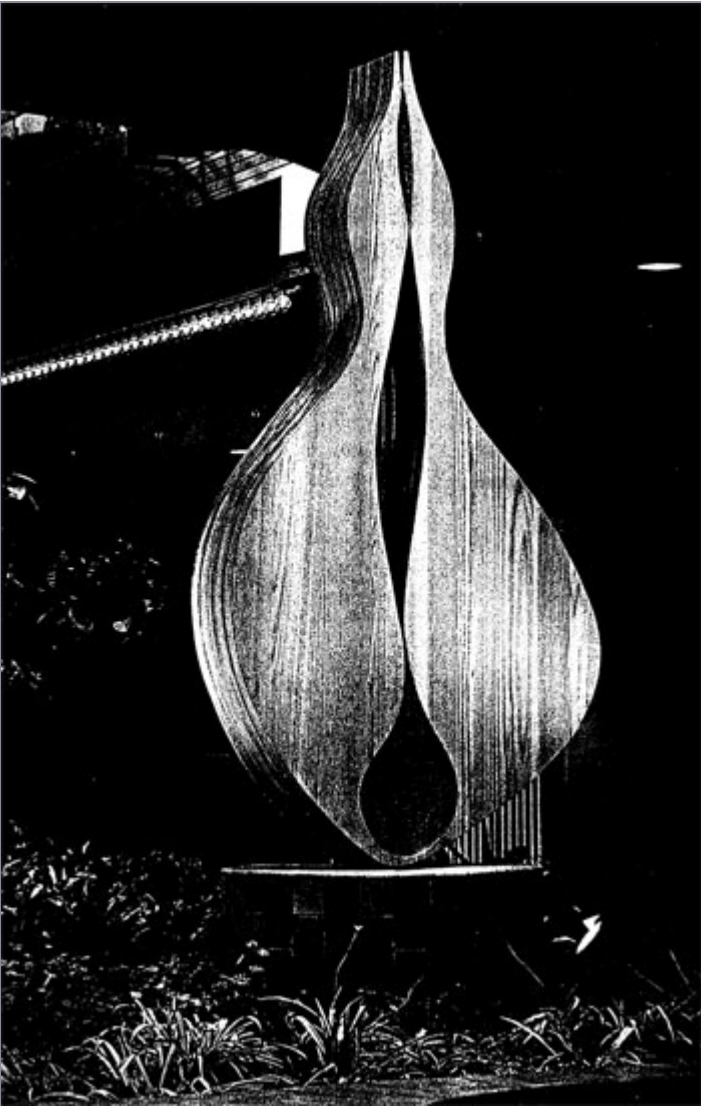
A half-hour film about Blitt called "Dancing Hands" has just been completed and will be a part of two upcoming exhibitions of her work – at Rockhurst College in Kansas City in February and later in the spring in Omaha, Nebraska. Two large stainless steel sculptures of Blitt's have recently been installed in Miami, Florida and the artist is currently at work on two sculptures for a major office building in suburban Kansas City.

In 1981, a childrens book by Blitt called "Nessie The Sculpture" was published and has been sold through bookstores as well as most major American art museums.

Rita Blitt's work is deeply rooted in the organic forms of nature, reflecting her attachment to nature and its frailties and power. In her two-handed pastel drawings, a strong sense of color manifests itself in a joyously electric rhythm.

"I feel like all of my work is inspired by my joy of life – my nature and dance movement," says Blitt. "Love, truth and beauty (I know that sounds corny) – that's what I'm all about. Honesty is the key word to my work. Years ago i peeled away all superfluous lines and shapes until I got to the essence of what is really me. Now I think – I know – I've reached that point."

Blitt says she wants to encourage everyone to allow themselves the joy of creating. "I believe everyone can create but many who desire to do so are afraid."



"Together", Oak, 8' x 12'