

RITA BLITT, Artist/Member

Rita Blitt has “always” been creative and began expressing that creativity as a young child. When she was six, an art supervisor praised her drawing and thus validated her talent. She began her formal art education when, at ten and again at eleven, she won a scholarship to Saturday classes at the Kansas City Art Institute.

She is justly proud of her words, “Kindness is Contagious! Catch it!” which she created in response to local activist and advocate for women, Beth Smith’s asking her to create “something to send all over the world to make the world a better place.” Rita’s poster with these words has been distributed world-wide and a Kindness Program, now under the auspices of

Synergy Services, still thrives, inspiring students and everyone in the Kansas City area to be kind.



Rita is best known for her monumental sculptures in parks and other public spaces around the world. Rita first created sculpture at the University of Illinois and was later inspired by the work of Kansas City’s wood sculptor, Cecil Carstenson.

Her first commission was from architect Chris Ramos, who requested suspended sculpture for a mall in St. Joseph, Missouri. Among her most recent works are the 12-foot bronze sculpture recently installed on the Washburn University Campus in Topeka and, locally, her 12-foot stainless steel sculpture titled “Sending Love” that was recently installed to

memorialize the victims of the Hyatt skywalks disaster. It is shown at left and may be seen installed at Skywalk Memorial Park, 22nd and Glijham Road, Kansas City, Missouri.

The Mulvane Museum of Art at Washburn University has acquired an archive of over 800 pieces of Rita’s art, including drawings, paintings, sculptures and film. A museum space devoted to the art of Rita Blitt connected to the recital hall at Washburn will open in 2017.

From January 20-31 (except in matinees), at the Joyce Theater in New York City, the Parsons Dance Company will present “Finding Center”, a dance inspired by and featuring a projected backdrop of Rita’s art.