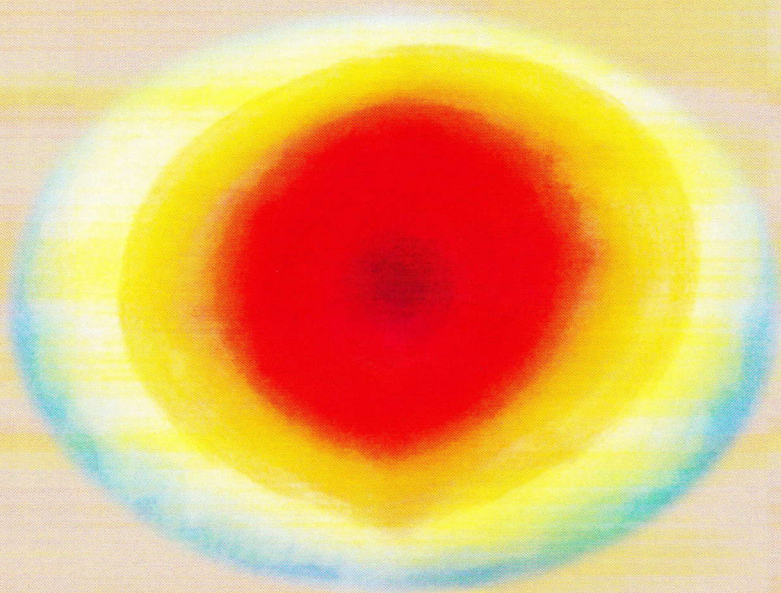


*Rita Blitt*

# VISIONS OF MY WORLD



## **9 Films of Creative Inspiration**

**Drawing | Painting | Sculpture**

**Music | Dance**

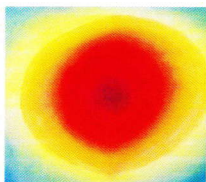
COVER ART: Blitt, 1982. Collection of Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art

# Visions of My World

*"Why films? I am a painter-sculptor! I have created art all my life. I get so excited about my ideas and processes of making art that I can't wait to share them. Also, the teacher in me really wants to inspire others to have the fun that I do. Thus, my films have come to be."*

—RITA BLITT

## Art Films



**1. *Abyss of Time*** (2013) 25 minutes. Rita Blitt, painter; Michael Udow, composer, *Abyss of Time*. This film was presented in Shenyang, China; Japan; and New York in 2013; and in Aspen, Colorado, 2014

*"Abyss of Time* is an astonishingly beautiful integration of painting and music. Watching it is an experience akin to drifting through MOMA on a cloud of mesmerizing music. At

times the paintings seem to be the musicians, and at other times the music seems to be painting. It is a technically perfect documentary that demonstrates how intimately connected are our aural and visual senses."

—Martin J. Sherwin, Pulitzer Prize winning author and University Professor of History and Art History at George Mason University

Permission granted: [www.michaeludow.com](http://www.michaeludow.com)

**2. *Collaborating with the Past*** (2011) 10 minutes. Rita Blitt, drawings; Pavel Haas (1899–1944), composer, String Quartet No. 2, op. 7, "From the Monkey Mountains." Premiered in San Francisco at the Contemporary Jewish Museum, 2011.

A poignant multi-media presentation honoring the memory of all artists whose works were silenced by the Holocaust. Blitt created the drawings while listening to Haas's music during the Aspen Music Festival, 1995.

Permission granted: *Boosey and Hawkes*



**3. *Caught in Nature with J. S. Bach*** (2005), 8 minutes. Rita Blitt, artist; Yehuda Hanani, cellist; J. S. Bach (1685–1750), composer, selections from Six Suites for solo cello.

Elegant sounds of the cello are heard while a bright red sculpture whimsically romps with other Blitt art in scenic Colorado.

Permission granted: *Yehuda Hanani*





**4. *Blur*** (2010) 12 minutes. Rita Blitt, drawings; Lansing McLoskey, composer, *blur*. This film premiered at the Aspen Composers Conference in 2010. The following year it was shown at the ACA New Music Festival, Symphony Space, New York City.

In the film *Blur*, music with a haunting sense of longing is complemented by drawings that are often spiritual and joyous.

Permission granted: Lansing McLoskey

## Documentary Films

**5. *Flag: 1976 Rita Blitt***, 7 minutes. Rita Blitt, artist; Samuel A. Ward (1847–1903), composer, “America the Beautiful”; John Phillip Sousa (1854–1932), composer, “Stars and Stripes Forever.”

Blitt’s inspiration for this film was to contrast the construction of her 1,748-piece acrylic American flag with the creation of the flag of Betsy Ross in 1776. Blitt’s 20 x 10.5-foot suspended flag was an official Bicentennial project of the State of Kansas.

Permission granted: The Goldman Band, Richard Franko Goldman, president; courtesy of MCA Records



**6. *Caught in Paint*** (2003) 6 minutes. Rita Blitt, painter; David Parsons, choreographer; The Parsons Dance Company, performers; Lois Greenfield, photographer; Franz Schubert (1797–1828), composer, String Quartet No. 14 in D minor, “Death and the Maiden,” D. 810.

Creative sparks fly as Blitt paints and the Parsons dancers energetically improvise, all spontaneously inspiring one another. Photographs capture the dancers in mid-air. This exciting collaboration has been shown in more than 130 film festivals and has won 16 awards. Screened by *Moving Pictures* magazine in 2008 at the Cannes Film Festival.

Performance unknown

11

When I draw,

**7. Visual Rhythms** (2006) 12 minutes. Blitt art and workshop presentation; Michael Udow, composer, *Over the Moon*, 2001.

Magic evolves as dance students are inspired to listen to their inner voices, improvise movement on the floor and then, when ready, extend that movement onto paper. The process repeats as the dancers flow back and forth creatively involving their entire bodies. The dancers loved the freedom of expression encouraged in this workshop.

Permission granted: Michael Udow ([michaeludow.com](http://michaeludow.com))



**8. What Kindness Means to Me** (1998) 6 minutes.

This heartwarming film of small children expressing their innocent wisdom about kindness is one of the many results inspired by Blitt's words, "Kindness Is Contagious, Catch It!" These words have been sent all over the world in hopes of making it a better place.

A Kindness program with extensive materials is available under the auspices of Synergy Services in Kansas City, Missouri. For information contact [www.synergyservices.org](http://www.synergyservices.org).

**9. Dancing Hands: Visual Arts of Rita Blitt** (1984) 25 minutes. Rita Blitt, artist; Michael Udow, composer, *Dancing Hands*.

Blitt's yearning to encourage everyone to let their hands dance on paper led to the making of this film. It includes 20 years of Blitt's creative practice, resulting in spontaneous drawings, paintings and monumental sculpture.

*To let your hands "dance on paper," feel the music as you dance with one hand or two (on any paper or a dry erase board) and let the lines come from deep within you.*

Permission granted: Michael Udow ([www.michaeludow.com](http://www.michaeludow.com))



*I am dancing."*



## Rita Blitt Biography

In 2000 Yehuda Hanani, international cello soloist and professor, wrote:

*"Rita Blitt's art and life are inseparable. Every gesture, in both, is borne on the wings of spontaneous responses unfettered by self-consciousness.... Her constant search for the spirit and essence of reality is accompanied by a sense of wonder and mischief. She lovingly conveys with experienced choreographic lines her vision of the world, where the kinetic energy of dance and an entire musical universe are transformed into the realm of the visual. The sculpture and drawings are by turn fluid and harmonious or rhythmic and staccato."*

Rita Blitt is an international award-winning painter, sculptor and filmmaker. Her works can be seen in museums and in public and private collections. As a child, she won scholarships to the Kansas City Art Institute and returned there for further studies after attending the University of Illinois and graduating from the University of Missouri, Kansas City.

Blitt has installed over 45 monumental sculptures up to 60 feet in height and has had over 70 solo exhibitions. Her works have been shown or installed in Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Italy, Israel, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, Uganda and the United States.

Blitt's art celebrates her love of nature, music, dance and the spontaneous flow of movement captured in the drawn gesture.

The award-winning book *Rita Blitt: The Passionate Gesture*, published by Ram Publications and Brandeis University, 2000, documents selected works.

A limited edition of this book includes a 6 x 6 x 2.5", two-part wood sculpture. Blitt's Kindness poster, "Kindness Is Contagious. Catch It," can be downloaded from [www.ritablitt.com/outreach](http://www.ritablitt.com/outreach).



PHOTO NANCY BUNDT