

Show reveals how a sculpture is born

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Sculptor Rita Blitt approaches a huge sheet of drawing paper with chalk in both hands. The hands sweep in graceful unison, and an abstract drawing reminiscent of an opening flower of [or] a jet of water appears on the paper. Eventually the drawing will be translated into a soaring, looping metal sculpture.

This entire process and the resulting sculptures are on view through Sunday, Oct. 25, at Foothills Art Center, 809 15th St., in Golden.

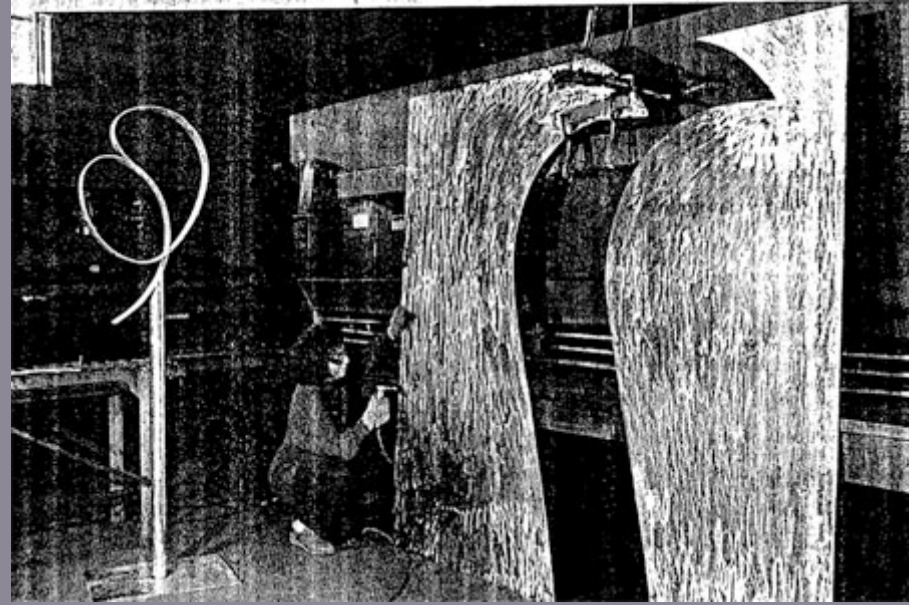
A large video monitor presents Blitt's TV documentary, "dancing hands," in which she describes her progress in life – from painter to sculptor; and her typical way of working. She can be seen "attacking" the paper, both hands "dancing" simultaneously. She worked first in plexiglass, then moved to wood, aluminum and steel.

Blitt's graceful steel sculptures are on display along with the drawings that preceded them. Also on view are photographs of site-specific sculptures she has placed around the country. Blitt's sculptures – some 60 feet tall – are installed in 45 locations throughout the U.S. and she is also represented in the collections of seven foreign countries.

Three representative collections illustrate some of Blitt's artistic learnings: the Haifa Symphony in Israel, the Harkness Ballet in New York City and the Kansas City Children's Museum. Blitt, who lives in Kansas City, is inspired by music and dance, and her works have the look of "frozen" music. The deeply humanistic artist also has written a children's book which includes a punch-out figure of her whimsical yellow sculpture "Nessie," inspired by the Loch Ness monster. The books are available at the art center.

Foothills is at 809 15th St. Hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

The center's additional galleries present glowing pastels by Mary Morrison, sculptures in white marble and other materials by E. Gene Milway, spontaneous abstract paintings by Burwood Gehrke, computerized photo-montages by Lisa Link and photographs of foreign locales (in the Breezeway gallery) by Ann Bingham.



Rita Blitt creates steel sculpture.