



## Irwin Blitt Fellowship

Application Guidelines

Deadline: May 17, 2019

In 2016, the Mulvane Art Museum received more than 2500 artworks (paintings, drawings, sculptures, and archival materials) that represent the creative life of Kansas artist, Rita Blitt. Inspired by music and dance and compelled by an inner voice that drives her to create, the collection serves as a witness to the pursuit of one artist as she endeavors to capture and contain an artistic vision inspired by line, movement, music, and life. The collection brings exponential opportunities to the Mulvane Art Museum, Washburn University, and the surrounding community. It is our vision that students, faculty, and guest curators will utilize the collection to create exhibitions, performances, compositions, and interpretive programs that utilize the Rita Blitt Collection in ways that allow us to explore art, music, dance, and life through her work.

### FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Named in honor of Rita Blitt's husband Irwin Blitt (1928-2017), who was a constant source of unconditional support to Rita and her creative spirit, the fellowship will be awarded to a Washburn University student who will work with the Rita Blitt Collection during an academic year to research and develop a curatorial project under the guidance of museum curatorial staff and a faculty mentor. Curatorial projects will culminate in an exhibition or an interactive multi-media project with interpretive content, the presentation of a choreographed dance performance or musical composition, or the completion of a research paper or catalogue.

Curating an exhibition, performance, interdisciplinary, or multi-media project requires idea development and refinement of an exhibition storyline, selection and research of artwork utilizing and contextualizing the Rita Blitt collection, and the development and oversight of project timeline and budget. Final projects may be completed as a Washburn Transformational Experience (WTE) or a Washburn University Apeiron presentation, and will be archived as a part of the Rita Blitt Collection at the Mulvane Art Museum. Students may receive college credit for the fellowship project with cooperation from their academic department and faculty advisor.

The total **fellowship award of \$5,000** will be presented for the 2018-2019 academic year with a start date of September 2018. An additional \$1,000 is available for reimbursement for supplies, materials, and fees for presentation of the final project. A \$500 stipend is provided for the faculty mentor.

### ELIGIBILITY

- Demonstrated interest in art, music, dance, theater, creative writing, museum studies or related field.
- Junior or Senior standing.
- Full-time enrollment in undergraduate program at Washburn University.
- Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.
- Ability to analyze and interpret art and/or performance.
- Willingness to work with museum curatorial staff and a faculty member

Mulvane Art Museum, Washburn University, 1700 SW College, Topeka, Kansas 66621  
785-670-1124 • [www.washburn.edu/mulvane](http://www.washburn.edu/mulvane)

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### APPLICATION FORM

Complete form at <https://form.jotform.com/90866077092162>. The following documents may be uploaded as word documents or PDFs. Please title each one with your last name\_document name.

### PERSONAL STATEMENT

Upload an essay describing your interest in the Rita Blitt Collection and why you consider yourself an ideal candidate for the Irwin Blitt Fellowship. Provide personal insights as to what you would contribute to the Rita Blitt Collection, and what you expect to gain from participation in the fellowship program. Explain how your area(s) of study, extracurricular activities, and any background and/or research experiences relate to the Rita Blitt Collection, and inform your ability to analyze and interpret art and/or performance. A suggested length for the statement is 750-1000 words, typed and double-spaced.

### RESPONSE PAPER

Upload a written response to *Finding Center* from Rita Blitt's Oval Series (pictured below) and/or the video recording of *Finding Center*, a 2016 collaboration in New York with choreographer David Parsons, the Parsons Dance Company, and artist Rita Blitt (link below).

Discuss your thoughts and personal impressions relating to the work of art and/or video. Look beneath the surface to identify themes, symbolism, and other mechanisms by which the painting and/or performance operates. Why do elements unfold the way they do beyond what's shown? Why did the artist(s) structure things in a certain way? How does what you're seeing compare and contrast with each other, similar images/videos? How do the elements of the image and/or video relate to the real world? A suggested length for the response is 250-500 words, typed and double-spaced.

### RESUME

Provide a resume that includes your professional and volunteer experiences as well as honors and awards.

### TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation. A letter may be submitted by a faculty member as well as past or current employers who are familiar with your skills and abilities. It is recommended that you have completed a course in your major taught by at least one of your references.

### TRANSCRIPTS

Submit a copy of your Washburn University transcript. If you are a transfer student, provide a copy of your transcript from all other post-secondary institutions attended (e.g., community college, college, university, etc.).

### INTERVIEW

The top two applicants will proceed to an interview process with a selection committee from the Mulvane Art Museum staff and selected Washburn faculty representing a variety of academic disciplines.

The Mulvane Art Museum will accept fellowship applications by email at the address listed below. Deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, May 17, 2019 by midnight. For more information, call 785-670-1124.

**Questions: Email Rebecca Manning, Collections Manager, Mulvane Art Museum at [rebecca.manning@washburn.edu](mailto:rebecca.manning@washburn.edu) or call 785-670-2224**



Rita Blitt (b. 1931); *Finding Center* from the Oval Series, 1983  
oil on canvas; 44" x 60"  
Mulvane Art Museum, Gift of the Artist

Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uE97xvrSLE&feature=youtu>