

## Windows to the Soul

By Valerie J. Christell, Alfons Gallery Curator

Alfons Gallery continues to explore personal, inner feelings through the current online exhibit, "Inner Experiences: The Sculpture and Process of William Nettelhorst" at [alfonsgallery.org](http://alfonsgallery.org)



This show presents an artist's view on accessing the soul's feelings beginning with *Anger*, the first sculpture in this series. This strong emotion is expressed through a blocky "head," as Bill refers to it, resting solidly on a thick neck and angular shoulder base. The stoic look to this sculpture formed from this introspective glimpse is slightly softened by the subtle colorations found throughout the pink alabaster. They combine to present a sense of the varied aspects of this human experience.

The foundation of Bill's creative process involves immersing himself in the experience of anger, then having that inner feeling guide his tools across the stone. The results range from slick surfaces to rough ones incorporating the chisel's marks.

In *Anger*, an inset comprised of chiseled layers that Bill calls "windows" manifests on one side of the sculpture's head. Within the bottom layer, drilled deep into the stone, a hole leads viewers further inward to the soul and source of emotions being explored. In the show's video, "William Nettelhorst in Conversation," Bill shares that these shapes recede until you see into the hole where "it's really intense."



Starting with *Anger*, Bill doesn't shy away from considering difficult experiences and expressing them in this seven-piece series covering the further abstract concepts of pain, his personal journey, healing, and life.

We hope you'll take a trip through cyberspace to contemplate the inner experiences that Bill has shared through his work in stone in this online exhibit that continues to June 4. You might also revisit the previous online shows, begun when the Gallery first closed due to COVID-19, via the "Past Exhibitions" tab accessible at the top of the Alfons Gallery website homepage.