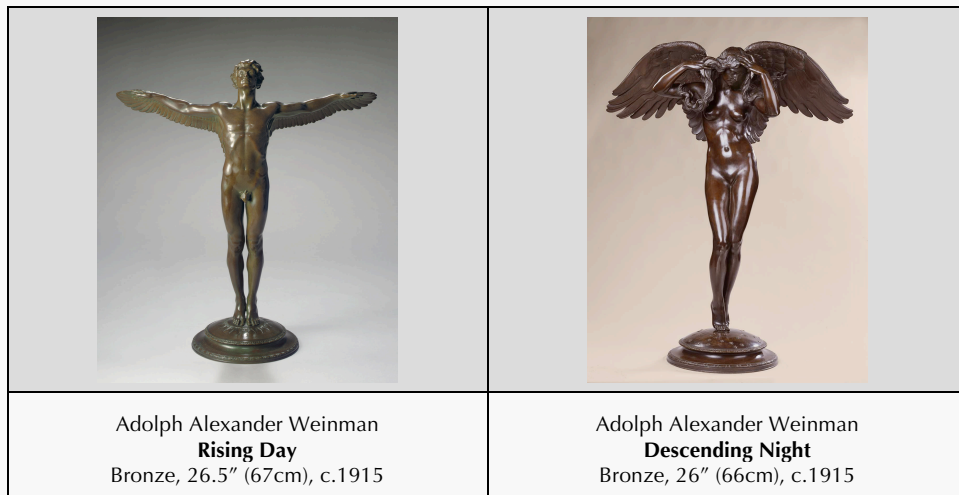


ABOUT: **THE WOUNDED HEALER**

Serendipitously, I found a photograph of a sculpture while rummaging in a New York City antique shop; it was of a nude male. With a little research, I learned the photograph was of a sculpture by **Adolph Alexander Weinman** (1870-1952, American) titled *Rising Day*. Guided by inner demons, I made copies of the image and artistically obliterated the male organs by superimposing a bleeding vagina in many paintings of *The Wounded Healer* series. Even later I discovered Weinman produced a female counterpart, *Descending Night*.



All over the world there are artists such as myself who see their art process as a healing and transformative experience.

For the last sixty years, my life and my art have been intertwined; often decades after an event, art images and processes pour forth, residues of the past as well as chronicles of my future. I approach the creation process as one would prayer, emptying the mind and allowing what needs to be expressed to come forth.

In a literal sense, I know I would not be alive without my art. Again and again, I have struggled to find meaning to my life, to give meaning to my life. Again and again, I have

experienced both my own suffering and the suffering of others yet always attempting to create beauty in spite of the pain. That creation process continually has restored me.

Alice Miller wrote about the relationship of creativity to childhood trauma in **Drama of the Gifted Child** and in her other works. In my works, the vaginal form that keeps repeating itself comes from early, still-shocking memories of childhood sexual abuse. Again and again, I recapitulate that original wound in my art, yet through art continually transform that wound, first intellectually and, more slowly, emotionally, so that the wound is healed through my art making. And the "I" that is me, I too have been transformed; I have become a maker.

Art and world co-exist simultaneously. My most successful creations are two children. Yet the continuing thread in my life has been the trust in the creative process: art-making as a spiritual practice which focuses on the transformative power of the art experience and places as much importance on the intention of the artist as upon the end product itself. We must follow heart and intuition, journeying beyond our mistakes, journeying beyond life's sorrows, cleaning-out old wounds, discarding old ways, transforming our world and ourselves.