

The sculpture in our driveway was created by the late Stanley Rill, who carved it from the trunk of an atlas cedar tree.
This is the story of how he created it.



When we moved into our house in the summer of 2014, this ugly Atlas cedar tree stood in the middle of the driveway, dropping needles that found their way into the house and preventing delivery trucks from using the driveway. We met Stanley Rill just before the arborist came to remove the tree, and Stanley stood under the tree, telling them what to take and what to leave.

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Here's what was left after
the arborist finished.



Stanley built a platform and
skinned off all the bark.



Stanley used paint and markers to draw the basic design.

It had to have a rabbit because we're the Bryerpatch Studio.



Close-up of Stanley
painting the design on
the tree trunk.



Detail of the beginning
of the relief carving.



Stanley build a three-story scaffolding with a tarp over it to keep out the rain.



Stanley did the rough
cutting with a small
chain saw.



Stanley carving
the first level.

He had a huge
palette of
grinding and
shaping bits for
his Dremel tool.



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Stanley did the fine carving with a drill and lots of different grinding bits. He wore a bandana, but it turns out he should have had a better respirator mask. Sadly, in the Summer of 2019, after a lifetime of wood carving, Stanley died from lung disease. He was a gifted artist and a true gentleman, and we miss him.



Stanley working on
the second level.



Stanley rough-cutting the body of the bird. He saved some of the limbs that had been cut off to make the bird's appendages.



Before removing the scaffolding, Stanley sealed the whole thing with several coats of sealer. He came back a couple of years later and filled the cracks and resealed it.



Stanley Rill's finished
sculpture which we titled the
"Phantasmagorical Heron"



Close-up of the top of the
Phantasmagorical Heron by
Stanley Rill. to see more of
Stanley's work, go to:
[http://stanleyrill.com/trees
andstumps.html](http://stanleyrill.com/trees
andstumps.html)





THE END

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