



## AETANI CENTRE

Art Making • Life Shaping

Residencies for Creative and Cultural Explorations

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### **Public Service Announcement - For Immediate Release**

#### **WINGS UNFETERED: A PRESENTATION BY VISITING ARTIST NIHARIKA RAJPUT**

Who: Niharika Rajput, FreshAiR Artist-in-Residence

What: Artist Talk and Presentation on North Okanagan Hummingbirds

Where: Allan Brooks Nature Centre

When: Wednesday, September 14 @ 7PM

The Caetani Cultural Centre and Allan Brooks Nature Centre invite the public to an artist talk and presentation by Fresh!AiR artist-in-residence Niharika Rajput where she will be speaking about her past and present work, as well as the stories behind her latest creations. Niharika is a visual artist and a creative conservationist based in New Delhi, India and this presentation will mark the end of nearly 6-weeks of research and art-making revolving around 3 local birds: the Black-chinned, Calliope and Rufous hummingbirds. Through her art, Rajput hopes to raise awareness of bird extinction and endangerment caused by global warming, loss of habitat and telephone towers, to name a few. Her passion for birds and conservationism is emphasized in her artwork, as she draws inspiration from nature and the avian world.

During her time in Vernon, Niharika has constructed a 3D sculpture of each of the hummingbirds using m-seal, wire and paper. Each bird is constructed with an incredible level of detail, texture, colour and material which seems to bring her birds to life. Her hummingbird sculptures will be on exhibit during the presentation on Wednesday, so viewers can experience first-hand the level of detail Niharika puts into her work.

Following Niharika's Artist Talk, there will be an informative presentation on North Okanagan hummingbirds and a 'Hands On' demonstration by the Okanagan Naturalists Club on how to band a hummingbird will be presented. This is a citizen science project to help determine why numbers of hummingbirds are down in North America. If you have an interest in hummingbirds, don't miss this opportunity to find out what you can do to help the hummingbirds in your back yard.

Rajput's residency marks the third of four back-to-back Fresh!AiR art & environment themed artist residencies for the 2016 season, a program made possible through a partnership between the Caetani Cultural Centre and the Allan Brooks Nature Centre. For more information, please visit our website [www.caetani.org](http://www.caetani.org) or feel free to give us a call 250-275-1525.