

Garvin Chinnia



I chose to represent a nesting Anna's Hummingbird for a few key reasons. The Anna's Hummingbird is one of the few hummers to overwinter in the Vancouver area. Not only that, they begin nesting in the winter-spring months. Other hummingbirds are only now migrating back to the area. I felt it appropriate to choose a familiar local animal that one can see any time of the year.

It is fascinating how this depiction of nature also implicates humans. Anna's used to concentrate in California. Due to a growing population, the bird has expanded its range far north of what its traditional boundaries. This growth can be tied directly to human activity, especially in flower gardens, where the surplus food has led to a surplus population. This same situation has also allowed the hummer to overwinter far more easily in northern climes. The native gooseberry also flowers in the winter months in our part of the world, which is an added boon. Thus, we humans are not apart from nature, but a part of it.

I depicted a nesting female keeping in mind the patients who are to be passing through the Segal Family Health Centre. Sitting comfortably in her nest, the bird's posture and repose are meant to invite reflection and create a sympathetic connection with the viewer. The hummingbird has a soft place to rest, so too should the patients.