

The Dying Swan: Revisited/Re-envisioned



The Dying Swan
Photo courtesy of youTurn Contemporary Arts Exhibition

SWAN OF THE DEAD

Local arts organization youTurn Contemporary Arts Exhibition is all about quality over quantity. Rather than doing monthly or semi-regular events throughout the year, the collective of artists and choreographers take their time to carefully curate one annual event that combines dance, visual art, music and even food.

"We're in our sixth year of producing the youTurn event," says youTurn co-founder and choreographer Erica Buechner. "We always do things slightly differently every year, but the goal has always been to bring together visual and performing arts, and make the event more of an arts experience."

Buechner's summarization certainly extends to this year's performance, *The Dying Swan: Revisited/Re-envisioned*. Based on a 1905 show created by ballerina Anna Pavlova and the legendary Russian choreographer Mikhail Fokine, *Swan* centers on the final moments in the life of a particularly gorgeous bird. While the original was a three-minute solo piece, Buechner's revision has seven dancers and runs for 45 minutes. Still, she says her take on *Swan* is as true to the original work as any she's seen.

"I came across the original Anna Pavlova on the Internet and became really inspired," says Buechner, who researched the piece extensively in preparation of creating her own. "People have made newer versions of it, but it has become way too much about the athleticism of the body, but for me it was much more about the emotion on Pavlova's performance. I was really drawn to the whole idea of, 'What if this is your final dance?'"

Harpist Harmony Negrin and violinist Kris Apple will provide the music for the night while acclaimed nature-based, mixed-media artist Stacie Birky Greene created two new works that, for the first time in youTurn's history, will be fully integrated into the performance. Local spread makers Nut 'n Bean will provide the grub. It all goes down at 7:30 p.m. on **Friday, June 10** and **Saturday, June 11**, at White Box Live Arts at NTC Liberty Station (2590 Truxtun Road). Tickets are \$20 at youturnarts.com (<http://youturnarts.com>).