

Art to meet conservation for solstice party

Who: Jackson Hole Land Trust, Jackson Hole Public Art, Jackson Hole Wild and Rendezvous Park
What: Summer Solstice Celebration with FoundSpace
When: Installations start at 10 a.m., celebration 5-8 p.m. Monday
Where: Rendezvous Park
How much: Free

By Erika Dahlby

In addition to celebrating the longest day of the year Monday, artists will be setting up place-inspired installations at Rendezvous Park. And you can get your hands dirty, too.

Starting at 10 a.m. Bland Hoke, Ben Roth, Matt Daly and Bronwyn Minton, with assistance from Jenny Dowd, will put six installations in place around the park with your help, inspired by the park for the Jackson Hole Land Trust's FoundSpace project.

FoundSpace aims to bring community awareness to public access property, in this case R Park, and to connect people with the land.

There's a part of the Land Trust mission that's hard to grasp, Executive Director Laurie Andrews said. The land the organization acquires it always stewards in perpetuity. To her that means taking care of properties but also sharing them with the rest of the community.

In trying to come up with ways for people to connect with the land, Andrews thought of art, and that turned into FoundSpace, an event combining art and conservation.

"Art is a way to connect," she said.

Hoke's "Pond Flute" changes tones and sound qualities with the water levels of the pond. The "Ring of Fire," "Alive Theater," and "Curtain Call" are all Roth creations with interactive components. Daly will be using the mobile art studio with pirate ships and treasure maps, sandpiper nests, leaf poems and secret message poems. Plant markers you would see at botanical gardens inspire "The Uncommon Garden." Instead of scientific names the labels touch on different senses and feelings. The installations will stay in the park until the end of the summer.

After the artwork is in place the solstice party starts. At 5 p.m. PTO will play music, free wine



Jenny Wolfrom paints poetry on art installations in Karns Meadow during a Jackson Hole Land Trust Event. Monday will bring new artwork and a solstice party to R Park.

and beer will flow and \$1 treats from Cafe Genevieve will be available. People are encouraged to bring picnic blankets and reusable water bottles. Friends of Pathways will host a bike valet, as the R Park is right off the bike path.

Also during the solstice celebration, people will get a chance to use Jackson Hole Wild's new interactive app, Site: R Park. The app is designed for R Park. Musical installations that overlap song tracks change depending on where you are in the park.

While there may be many people in Jackson who love to use public lands and parks, there are still parts of the population who don't. When the first FoundSpace event was held last year in Karns Meadow, in the heart of Jackson, most

people didn't even know about it, Andrews said.

"It was eye-opening to me," she said. "Just get there and it's yours. It's a private park for public use. Touch it, use it, make it yours. That is stewarding the land."

People are invited to be part of the gathering, when groups go out and collect things like feathers, wood and rocks that the artists will use in the installations. The final gather will be held Thursday and Friday. Contact the Land Trust to get connected to the group.

"Come with an open mind and excitement and energy," Andrews said.

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Dancers explore race, perception, privilege, emotion

Who: Contemporary Dance Wyoming
What: Modern dance performances
When: 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday
Where: Center Theater, Center for the Arts
How much: \$35 adult, \$25 student

By Isa Jones

Contemporary Dance Wyoming's summer performances dance through some heavy topics.

There are four pieces from five choreographers this season, some local and others by guests of the company. The performances will take place at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday in the Center Theater at the Center for the Arts. Tickets cost \$35 for adults, \$25 for students.

CDW is the only professional dance company in the state of Wyoming and has an annual performance. This season features works by Artistic Director Babs Case, Dance Wyoming's Kate Kosharek, New York City dancer/choreographer Troy Ogilvie, and Manuel Vignouille and Rena Butler from the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company.

"We have some incredible artists coming," Case said.

Case's work is based on emotions. "My piece is based on the idea of emotional mutation," she said. "Emotions mutate over time."

She is using dance to explore emotional changes, and is utilizing water as a metaphor, an element both flexible and ever-changing.

"Black and White" by guest dancers Vignouille and Butler is about opposites, particularly in race. Vignouille is a black Frenchman and Butler a white woman.



The Contemporary Dance Wyoming dance troupe rehearses Friday at Dancers' Workshop in the Center for the Arts.

"It is about how we find that one blends with the other, and how we are not so white and not so black but a mix between them," Vignouille said.

Vignouille and Butler came to Jackson with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane company last year. That is when they began their work with valley dancers.

Vignouille says that Jackson helps inspire him.

"Jackson has been kind of an oasis for me for dance," he said. "I grew up in France with a similar landscape. So it's a good feeling for me between the work and the connection with nature."

Contemporary Dance Wyoming member Kosharek had a baby last year. To stay involved she moved into

choreography this season, designing and presenting her own work, "Duality Unfolding."

"How we perceive the world, how the world perceived us, what is duality?" she said of her dance. "Is our goal to achieve empathy? I think it is the more we can have that sense of duality we're a little more awake as human beings."

This is the first time Kosharek has worked as a choreographer only, and it was a group effort with the dancers. The dance first premiered in March, so Kosharek was able to rework it between then and now.

"It informed the process quite a bit," she said.

"The piece has been in a great place

because it's been mostly finished so I can focus on details and finesse things."

Troy Ogilvie has come to Jackson to examine privilege in his dance.

The New York City dancer and choreographer is taking this opportunity to explore privilege through movement.

"I think it's one of the most important issues of many times," Ogilvie said. "Right now there's no excuse for anyone to ignore it. It's a really pervasive thing and I think as a Caucasian person, it seems like it is a choice to see it or not."

For Ogilvie his "Less Than Greater Than" piece came together through conversation.

"We ended up making a pretty abstract piece," Ogilvie said. "We talked about issues that were very not abstract and I think it gives the dancers a reason to do the movements. ... We had great conversations between myself and the dancers and it was great to hear them talk to their partners about it, and family and friends."

Ogilvie said he came to Jackson partially because of Babs Case, and partially because of the lack of pressure here.

"The dancers are super willing and committed and there is something about it being low pressure, being able to really try something," he said.

"If I was premiering a piece in New York I would feel pressured to put more pizzazz in it, make it more edible. It's great to be able to have an opportunity for risk. That's something lacking in the art world, and it's a death toll."

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