



## **Next Week, Swan Lake: Reflections on Dance and Dances**

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# Next Week, Swan Lake: Reflections on Dance and Dances

*Selma Jeanne Cohen*

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An important book of essays on “dance and ideas about dance”

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Review

"A primer of dance aesthetics...Cohen tackles such basic issues as the nature and relationship of grace and virtuosity in dancing; the literal, expressive, and intrinsic significance of movement; and the meaning of style. She explores relevant and fascinating byways, such as the tension between the 'given' choreography and the performers transmission - and inevitable interpretation - of it to the viewer. Boldly she takes on that first, and perhaps thorniest, question concerning the most ephemeral of the arts: the very definition of 'the work.'" --Tobi Tobias, *Dancemagazine*

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"Cohen's stimulating, perceptive, and well-written essays both conjure up the excitement of live dance performances and record dance aesthetics with accuracy, historical perspective, clarity, persuasion, pleasure, ease, expertise, and reliability . . . High priority acquisition for both public and academic libraries"-  
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"The issues Cohen tackles are as fundamental to the dance critic as time, space and energy are to the choreographer. How might one go about determining the 'style' of a ballet? What makes virtuoso display frivolous? What, and how, does a dance represent?"--Susan Isaacs Nisbett, *Dance Critics Association News*

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