

Review of *TEN: Territory, Encounter & Negotiation*

**Jay Koh, artist-curator, author, evaluator and consultant, DFA
2014**

Whelan embarks in this book to narrate her long and challenging journey in developing an engaged practice that crosses sectors and disciplines. Having been trained in a traditional art education and lacking contemporary theories to tackle this task that sits in an emerging field, she discretely chose to employ open, dialogical and critical processes that build on negotiations with others. These processes activated an accumulation of experience, knowledge and provided answerability to Whelan's ethical concerns of working with youth and youth workers in complex environments. Her detailed accounts and questionings of power relationships, otherness, and her self-examination are validation of a progressive and viable practice, which grounds the success of this documentation on durational engagement that has invoked changes in the mindsets of the participants. A comprehensive knowledge of the ups and downs of the engagement process is clearly presented in her text, from the initiation of a project to the presentation of different voices to gaining acceptance from the mainstream cultural establishment. This relevant contribution is a must read for practitioners and researchers with interest to engage existing theories on durational dialogical interactions, intersubjective bondings, self-determined participation and critical collaborations in socially engaged and public participatory art.