

Para/Site 1996-2008

一人一個故事

Para/Site藝術空間乘著香港藝術發展局成立的機遇而生，十二年來尋找社會資源來支持香港當代藝術的發展，積極地回應香港藝術生態的需要。這類特定環境的組織，以前都沒有先例可援，我們都是邊行邊開路。十二年來經歷了許多變化，相關的經驗，相信值得總結、反省及與人分享。

但我們應怎樣論述這段歷史？單一、線性、權威的論述都不適合Para/Site這個民間、開放和有機的組織。本書採用一人一故事的形式，大家各自去說他們認為重要的和Para/Site有關的議題，亦有邀約一些稿件去談Para/Site舉辦得較多的政治和空間藝術的活動。我們既有邀請熟識本地藝術圈的作者，也有外地的同行，嘗試做到既專且廣。收集文章過後，大致可分為兩類：Para/Site本身的理念修正，活動反省和營運經驗分享，以及從Para/Site論到大環境的議題，例如策展、藝術與政治、藝術家自主空間的進化。

這些方面的反省，相信對理解本地藝術生態有幫助，亦為後來者提供參考。讀者可能會發覺不同作者對Para/Site的理解都稍有不同，哪誰的版本才對？可以說全都正確，因為本書採取開放形式，有不同的側重點是正常現象，亦說明了Para/Site是個求同存異的地方。

文晶瑩
編輯

One people one story

To grasp the chance of the birth of Hong Kong Arts Development Council, Para/Site Art Space was set up. We found the resource from the society to support the development of Hong Kong Contemporary Art and to meet the needs of the Hong Kong art ecology. There is no precedent for this kind of organization under this special circumstance. We are moving steadily forward and exploring new paths at the same time. We have experienced a lot in these twelve years. We believed it is time and of great value to summarize, reflect and share the experience with others.

How should we talk about this history? Neither monotone, linear nor authoritative style is suitable for commenting an open and organic organization like Para/Site. This book has adapted a one-people-one-story style. We also invited authors to send in reflections on exhibitions that Para/Site has mostly held, mainly on topics concerning space and politics. Experts from both local and abroad are invited to contribute.

Once collected, articles were grouped. One is of Para/Site itself, e.g. reflections on activities, modification of working direction and experiences sharing on managing issues. While the other extends to subjects like curatorship, art and politics, the evolution of artist run space.

These reflections from various perspectives are helpful to the understanding of local art ecology and provide reference for those who wanted to start their own spaces.

Different contributors might have their own understanding as well as different focus of interest of Para/Site. Indeed, free interpretation and the existing of different preferences may honestly reflect our basic value to include.

Phoebe MAN Ching Ying
Editor