COLOURISE FESTIVAL 2013: eARTh participant comments:

a journey like no other through a territory, though familiar, maps itself in a myriad of other ways, both sensitive and outspoken ways - sensitive to Aboriginal families, voices, culture and history, and this in contrast to (in co-incidence with) the noise and congestion of the white Australian territory; I felt a part of an Indigenous creative community; I made some friends and was introduced to others; I appreciated the physical exercise; I journeyed through the city from a central (centred?) Aboriginal hub which created a Brisbane city walking experience in another dimension; I felt I experienced Brisbane city anew, in a way that felt connected to Turrbal country, Aboriginal people and places past and present (future's in there too of course); giving respect as well as enhancing and enriching Fiona Foley's creative (culturally, politically and spiritually charged) public artwork (Silence to Witnessing exterior Brisbane Magistrate's Court, Roma St.) - that's a whole other idea there.

Walking through the city as a group gave me a feeling of connection while we created something together. We moved as a group and looked out for each other. I enjoyed knowing we were on this experience together as I learn new ways of seeing the city. Moving together for a long period of time, gave me lots of time to see how the city was influencing the footage that was projected, while the footage influenced the city. Together as we witnessed the city in new ways we had time to build connections through conversations, silence and our shared experience.

Being initially involved with organising wreath and leaf prop making workshops for Colourise festival eARTh brought an interweaving of feelings of reverence and ritual, gathering and belonging, and respect and excitement about what was to come. Then at last we gathered to venture into city night life in recognition of Country, Traditional Owners, Ancestors and past achievements of Aboriginal peoples; placing wreaths at certain sites to also remind us of our present; witness to powerfully confronting, lyrically astounding Blak RAP verse; serenaded by recorded sounds of the bush and Aboriginal music; visually entranced by haunting images across the night sky projected onto buildings, ceilings, footpaths and clothing; chalk leaves and silent charcoal drawings left on pavements. All brought new freshness an altered state of awareness as never experienced in Brisbane city streets before ... and a longing for more.