“City as Stage, City as Process” brings together speakers from art and (counter) culture, architecture, urbanism, and media technology to discuss such questions as: In what way is the city not a fixed entity, but a process? How do artists and cultural activists reclaim the street, activating the city as backdrop and insisting on public space? What makes a city a city? Who owns the city? How can media technology be designed to intervene in and navigate the city?

Mondays 7 – 9 pm
Joan Jonas Performance Hall
265 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge
Bldg N51-337, 3rd floor
Adjacent to the MIT Museum

This lecture series is directed by Ute Meta Bauer and Amber Frid-Jimenez. The series highlights the focus of studies and faculty work and research at the MIT Visual Arts Program on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the program.

For information:
vap@mit.edu
617-253-5229
http://imaginingcities.mit.edu/

September 28, 2009
Factory City
Christoph Schaefer
In the new urban fabric, subcultures, cultural workers, musicians and artists play a significant role as producers of collective spaces, of places shaped by desires, and as inventors of new perspectives and lifestyles. German conceptual artist Christoph Schaefer will introduce Park Fiction, a collective self-organised project that sought to break an expensive piece of land at the prestigious riverbank of Hamburg St. Pauli out of the grip of real estate developers. This fight by residents, along with artists park with a harbor view.

October 5, 2009
Perfomative City
Joan Jonas
Performance and video pioneer Joan Jonas screens and discusses her outdoor performance pieces “Jones Beach Piece,” “Nova Scotia Beach Piece” and “Delay, Delay” that she developed into a video piece titled “Song Delay” (1973).

October 19, 2009
Public City
Antoni Muntadas
“City” and “public” are notions that require investigation. Is there still a public space? Is the city a place for interventions? City authorities and the private sector provide surveillance and control. Yet it is the city dwellers who should make critical decisions over the city. Can they? What contribution can artists, architects, designers, city planners make today to this discussion?

October 26, 2009
Propaganda City
Mike Bonanno, The Yes Men
A hoax print of the New York Times was massively distributed throughout the city during the US presidential election campaign in 2008. “The Yes Men” have an unusual hobby: posing as top executives of corporations they hate. Armed with nothing but thrift-store suits, they tie their way into business conferences and parody their corporate targets in ever more extreme ways.

November 2, 2009
Protest City
Ana Miljacki
Nomeda Urbonas
Architect and architecture theorist Ana Miljacki speaks about her project “Classes, Masses, Crowds. Representing The Collective Body and The Myth of Direct Knowledge” and Nomeda Urbonas, member of the Lithuanian artist collective Gediminas and Nomeda Urbonas, talks about the concept, process, and outcome of their project Pro-test Lab, a multi-dimensional project to save a historical cinema in Vilnius.

November 9, 2009
Fractured City
Angus Boulton
Photographer Angus Boulton talks about his series of Berlin currently on view at the Wolk Gallery in MIT’s Department of Architecture. This event is collaboration between the MIT Museum and the MIT Visual Arts Program on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall.

November 16, 2009
Porous City
Krzysztof Wodiczko
Artist Krzysztof Wodiczko, head of the Interrogative Design Group at MIT, introduces his critical design proposals including “Poliscar” and “Homeless Vehicles.” This lecture coincides with his solo show at the ICA Boston, which will be open November 4, 2009 to March 28, 2010.