



## City as Stage, City as Process

# Performative City / Joan Jonas



Mon 10/05/09  
7–9pm

Image from "Song Delay" by Joan Jonas

Massachusetts  
Institute of Technology  
MIT Visual Arts Program

Joan Jonas Performance Hall  
265 Massachusetts Avenue  
Building N51, Room 337  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Adjacent to the MIT Museum

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Free and open to the public.

"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?

### Performative City

Performance and video pioneer Joan Jonas screens and discusses her outdoor performance pieces "Jones Beach Piece" and "Delay, Delay" that she developed into a video piece titled "Song Delay" (1973). First performed in lower Manhattan in 1972, the footage was shot from the roof of a loft building where the audience overlooked the performance taking place in empty lots below with a view to the distant docks of the Lower West Side. Performing with a cast that included Gordon Matta-Clark, Jonas choreographed a theater of space, movement and sound with the urban landscape of New York in a featured role. She performed this piece a second time in Rome, where the audience watched the performance from the other side of the Tiber river bank.

### Joan Jonas

Joan Jonas is a Professor in the MIT Visual Arts Program. She is a pioneer of video/performance art. Jonas' experiments and productions in the late 1960s and early 1970s were essential to the development of contemporary art in many genres: from performance and video to conceptual art and theater.

### Directions

The MIT Visual Arts Program is located adjacent to the MIT Museum. Enter through the grey door on Front Street and take the elevator to the third floor. Exit to your left and go down the ramp. The Joan Jonas Performance Hall is located on the right.

### By Public Transportation

Take the Red Line to Central Square. Walk four blocks along Massachusetts Avenue towards Boston and the Charles River, or take the #1 bus to the Front Street stop.

### This series

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.