JOHN MALPEDE with HARRELL FLETCHER
Artist, director, and performer John Malpede will talk with artist Harrell Fletcher about three decades of Malpede’s aesthetically and politically uncompromising brand of art as social action. Documentation of his most recent project RFK in EKY will be on view in the Front Gallery.

Exhibitions on view EXTENDED!!
April 27–June 30

THE AMERICAN WAR (main gallery)
In Vietnam for an artists’ retreat, Harrell Fletcher visited Ho Chi Minh City’s War Remnants Museum. The American War, 2005, exhibits Fletcher’s re-photographs of every brutal image he saw there.

RFK IN EKY (front gallery)
Photo and video documentation of John Malpede’s RFK in EKY, 2004, a full-scale reenactment of Robert F. Kennedy’s two-day tour through eight impoverished towns in southeastern Kentucky in 1968.

Special Event
Friday April 28 1:30 - 6:30 pm
COME TOGETHER/ Social action at MIT: Nine short talks on people, programs and projects. Come in and out or stay all day!

Harrell Fletcher, artist, and Larissa Harris, Associate Director, Center for Advanced Visual Studies
Introduction
1:30

Professor Emeritus Robert Mann,
Dept Biomedical Engineering
Technology and Culture Forum
1:55

Bill Thies
PhD candidate; student leader, TEK
Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab
2:20

John Malpede is an eminent performer, director, activist, and artist who often uses governmental, legal, and media sources as found texts. In 1985 he founded the Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD), an organization that engages the homeless population of Los Angeles through performance. LAPD’s current touring project, Agents and Assets, 2001-, recreates a House of Representatives hearing on the importation of drugs into the United States in the 1980s by Nicaraguan contra rebels with the CIA’s complicity. He has received the Bessie Creation Award from Dance Theater Workshop, New York; San Francisco Art Institute’s Adeline Kent Award; and a Theater LA Ovation Award, as well as numerous government and foundation grants. He has taught at UCLA, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, the Amsterdam School for...
Harrell Fletcher has worked with a variety of communities since the early '90s--students, seniors at a senior center--to make artworks celebrating engagement, ephemerality, and everyday life. Across a range of practices that includes video, photography, drawing, and teaching, Fletcher invariably asks, "Who can be an artist?" and "Can ordinary life be artful?" He has exhibited at SF MoMA, the de Young Museum, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco; the Drawing Center, Socrates Sculpture Park, and Smackmellon in New York; DiverseWorks and Aurora Picture Show in Houston; PICA in Portland, OR; and Signal in Malmo, Sweden. Fletcher took part in the 2004 Whitney Biennial and in 2002 started (with Miranda July) the participatory web site Learning to Love You More.