

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
November 1997

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GALLERY EXHIBITION DISPLAYS THE AWARD-WINNING WORK OF THE HUBLEY STUDIO

COMPLETE RETROSPECTIVE OF HUBLEY STUDIO FILMS FOLLOWS IN JANUARY 1998

**Major Two-Part Exhibition
Reveals the Artistry of Four Decades of Work
by One of the Country's Foremost Independent Animation Studios**

The Hubley Studio: A Home for Animation

December 19, 1997–February 1, 1998

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater Gallery

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The Art of the Hubleys

January 16–February 1, 1998

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2

For the past forty-two years, The Hubley Studio has been designing, directing, and producing some of American cinema's finest independent animated films. Beginning in mid-December, The Museum of Modern Art will present a major two-part exhibition devoted to the animation created by The Hubley Studio, founded in 1955 by John and Faith Hubley.

From December 19, 1997, through February 1, 1998, the Museum will present a gallery exhibition of original materials from the studio's animated films, including concept art, animation drawings, storyboards, background paintings, and layouts created by the Hubleys since the Studio's inception.

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This exhibition, titled *The Hubley Studio: A Home for Animation* will be on view in The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater Gallery. It will have as its opening-night event a showcase of Hubley films, featuring the world premieres of Faith Hubley's *Beyond the Shadow Place* (1997) and Emily Hubley's *One Self: Fish-Girl* (1997).

Most of the animation art on view in the exhibition is culled from a major gift of original artwork recently donated to the Museum by Faith Hubley. This gift includes animation art created by the Hubley Studio as well as original artwork that predates the Studio's founding, including some of John Hubley's earliest works.

"The exhibition will highlight the Hubleys importance as artists of a unique and vibrant form of animation," said Mary Corliss, Assistant Curator, who organized the gallery exhibition with Ron Magliozzi, Film Research Assistant, Department of Film and Video. "Their sophisticated and enchanting social fables, visualized in a vivid, impressionistic style, liberated the form from the prevailing mode of representational drawing and rowdy humor."

From January 16 to February 1, 1998, the Museum will present *The Art of the Hubleys*, a major retrospective featuring more than fifty films made by Faith, by John and Faith, and by their daughter Emily Hubley. Among the highlights of the series will be John and Faith Hubley's seven Academy Award-nominated films, three of which (*Moonbird*, 1960; *The Hole*, 1963; and *Tijuana Brass Double Feature*, 1966) won Oscars. This complete retrospective, which spans the years 1956 to 1997, is the most comprehensive program mounted thus far in the United States.

"This series shows that the Hubleys could bring their creative lucidity and humor to bear on subjects as divergent as understanding the physical universe, graphically depicting the imagery of human mythology, and clamoring for a rational approach to a

myriad of social concerns,” said Charles Silver, Film Research Associate, Department of Film and Video, who organized the film series. “This sensitivity and maturity, balanced by their special artistry, makes this first complete retrospective of the Hubleys’ work a treasure trove of surprises and delights.”

Typically, work by members of The Hubley Studio employs a vibrant, luminous style, influenced by Picasso, Matisse, and Miró, to explore important social issues (e.g., race relations, nuclear arms, ecology, or children’s rights) as well as the myths and cosmologies of other cultures. Fluid and enigmatic as well as joyously entertaining, Hubley Studio animation always has an air of spontaneity and improvisation about it, even when its subjects are serious and wide reaching. The aim of these evocative works is “to warn, to humanize, to elevate vision, to deepen our understanding of ourselves and our relationships with each other.”

John Hubley, creator of Mr. Magoo, apprenticed at the Walt Disney Studios and was a founder and supervising director of the United Productions of America (UPA) studios, which revolutionized postwar animation. In the twenty-two years from the time John and Faith established their studio to John’s untimely death in 1977, the husband-and-wife team produced more than twenty films—one of their wedding vows was that they would make one film a year together). Their dazzling, jazzy style led them to successful collaborations with renowned musicians Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Carter, and Quincy Jones, among others, and helped transform the art of animation.

Working as a solo artist, Faith Hubley has since 1977 designed, directed, and produced more than twenty films that have received honors at home and abroad, including coveted awards at the Venice, Cannes, and Annecy film festivals (she and John helped establish the latter in the late sixties). Speaking of the consistently high level of

quality during a career that has spanned more than forty years, film historian and critic Leonard Maltin said, "Faith Hubley's integrity, humanity, and artistry shine in everything she does." Lately Faith has been one of the featured artists and stalwart supporters of Absolut Panushka, a Web site devoted to visionary animators and independent animation.

Emily Hubley was born into the Hubley Studio, and grew up collaborating on various films with her parents, two brothers, and sister. She has made more than a dozen acclaimed short works in her eighteen-year career, in a signature style that, like the work of her parents, is notable for its humor, storytelling skill, and compassion.

The Hubley Studio: A Home for Animation and *The Art of the Hubleys* are made possible by a generous grant from Absolut Vodka. Generous support is also provided by Michael and Judy Ovitz, Paul Newman—Newman's Own, Elizabeth Sackler—Museum Educational Trust of the Jewish Communal Fund, Garry B. Trudeau, and by additional individual donors.

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Members of the press only: For more information, color slides, preview cassettes, or interviews with the curators, please call Graham Leggat at 212/708-9752.

Members of the public: For more information on this and other Museum programs, please visit our Web site at www.moma.org or call our general information line at 212/708-9400.

For more information on the life and career of Faith Hubley, or to arrange interviews with Faith, please call Lucius Barre at 212/595-1773.

For more information on Absolut Panushka (www.absolutvodka.com), please call Jennifer Bickman at 212/213-7163