

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STYLISH DOCUMENTARY ILLUSTRATING THE LIFE OF PIONEERING  
ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONIST UNEARTHS ON DVD AFTER 18 YEARS

**JOAN MITCHELL:**  
**PORTRAIT OF AN ABSTRACT PAINTER**  
**Arrives July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**NEW YORK, NY June 24, 2010** - Available on DVD for the first-time since the film's theatrical release approximately 18 years ago, ***JOAN MITCHELL: PORTRAIT OF AN ABSTRACT PAINTER*** is a powerful and intimate portrait that captures the late Mitchell's independent spirit and testifies eloquently to Mitchell's art. One of the great abstract painters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Mitchell was an active participant of New York's dynamic Abstract Expressionist scene and hung out with fellow painters Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning and Philip Guston, as well as poets Frank O'Hara, James Schuyler and John Ashbery. In the mid-fifties, she moved to Paris, where she was part of a circle of friends that included Pierre Matisse, Samuel Beckett and Alberto Giacometti. This elegantly edited documentary weaves together interviews with the acerbic Mitchell and other leading painters and critics, while letting her stunning pictures dominate the film. Stephen Holden of the *New York Times* says, "The canvases have grand chaotic romanticism. While celebrating the physical universe with an ecstatic love of color, they don't shy away from expressing a harsh, feral apprehension of nature and its violence."

Written, directed and co-produced by the late Marion Cajori, a filmmaker well-known for capturing the creative process in documentaries about artists, the film became a critic's darling playing at Toronto, Sundance and Melbourne Film Festivals. The documentary went on to win several top awards including the Whitney Pratt Grand Prize Montreal Int'l Festival for Films on Art and the Gold Plaque Award Chicago Int'l Film Festival

The DVD retails at **\$29.95** and comes with a **lavish 40-page booklet** produced by the Joan Mitchell Foundation that features photos, colorful artwork, a poignant letter from the heart by Marion Cajori to Joan Mitchell herself plus more.

**FILM CREDITS:**

Producers: Christian Blackwood, Marion Cajori

Director: Marion Cajori

Editor: Grace Tankersley

Cinematographer: Ken Kobland

Sound: Susan Korda, Pamela Yates

Art Courtesy Joan Mitchell, The Museum of Modern Art, The Robert Miller Gallery, The Jean Fournier Gallery

**TECHNICAL INFORMATION:**

Catalog #: NNVG224510

Rating: N/A

Running Time: 58 mins

Genre: Documentary

Release Date: 7/27/10

Language: English

Color: Color and B&W

Audio Format: Stereo

Distributor: New Video/ Arthouse Films

Pre-Order Date: 6/29/10

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