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BRUSSELS FILM AWARDS PRESENTED TO THREE NEW YORKERS

Dr. Carl Albert Coris, Commissioner of Information for Belgium, yesterday (Feb 24) presented the Brussels International Experimental Film awards to the three New York prize winners before an invited audience at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street. Jan Iye was awarded the second prize, after which for his Face Reflection. Bronze medals were given to Hilary Hattie for Lighting and to Francis Thompson for N.Y., N.Y. The three films were screened following the presentation.

After an introduction by Richard Griffiths, Curator of the Museum's Film Library, Dr. Coris said: "It was the aim of the International Festival to encourage films which 'renew the language of the camera and which shed light on less frequented regions.' 403 films were submitted to a competent jury. Of the 133 retained for final judgment, 57 were made by Americans, 17 by Frenchmen, the rest by artists of many nationalities. The American films impressed the jury and the public by their quality and especially by the fact that the American participants seemed to have abandoned the charms of surrealism for a more abstract conception. It was also noted that some artists, like Jan Iye, already had their imitators and plagiarists, an undignitable but annoying form of celebrity."

The first International Festival of the Experimental Film was held in Knokke, Belgium in 1947. The second took place last year in Brussels during the World's Fair. Valerian Borowick and Jan Lenica of Poland were winners of the first prize gold medal for their film Dom.

For further information please contact Herbert Bronssein, Assistant Secretary, Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, CI 5-8900.