



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Carolyn Belardo, 215-299-1043, [belardo@ansp.org](mailto:belardo@ansp.org)

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### NEW EXHIBIT AT THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES TAKES CLOSE-UP LOOK AT ANIMALS

*March 13 through May 16, 2010*

PHILADELPHIA—The wavy wet tongue of a Great Dane and the naked snout of a pig are not usually considered photogenic subjects. But for photographer Henry Horenstein, they are perfect.

These provocative images are among a collection of Horenstein's best black-and-white animal photographs that will be on display at the Academy of Natural Sciences in an exhibit that blends art with science called *Looking at Animals*, on view from March 13 through May 16. To complement many of the images, the Academy will display corresponding animal specimens from its own world-renowned research collection of more than 17 million animals and plants. Also, the Academy's teacher-naturalists will give daily animal talks using the museum's live animals, including birds and reptiles, a regular feature of the Academy and its outreach programs to schools.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the science and the art of animals and to give visitors a full nature experience," said Barbara Ceiga, vice president for public operations. The Academy cares for about 100 animals that cannot be released to the wild for various reasons. These animals are used to teach about habitat loss, species extinction, and other environmental lessons.

Animal and photography lovers alike will appreciate Horenstein's unique artistic approach. His close-up, abstract style invites viewers to take a closer look at familiar creatures and to admire their inherent beauty, mystery and eccentricities. Stripped of context and color, the photographs are all about the animals. Texture, form and shape are vividly spotlighted in rich, sepia tones.

"I believe animals are their very own creatures, with unique, often surprising and altogether amazing characteristics," said Horenstein. "And that's what I've tried to capture in these pictures."

Horenstein, who lives in Boston, is a professor of photography at the Rhode Island School of Design and the author of more than 30 books including "Creatures," "Aquatics," "Canine," and "Animalia," from which the photos on display were drawn.

*Looking at Animals* is free with museum admission. All photographs copyright by Henry Horenstein. Exhibition organized by Harvard Museum of Natural History. This show is managed by art2art Circulating Exhibitions.

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*The Academy of Natural Sciences, founded in 1812, is the oldest natural science research institution and museum in the Americas and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.*

*HOURS: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. ADMISSION: \$12 adults; \$10 children 3-12, seniors, college students, and military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for Butterflies!*

THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES 1900 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PARKWAY PHILADELPHIA 19103