



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NEW EXHIBIT TAKES A CLOSE-UP LOOK AT ANIMALS, IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

***Looking at Animals runs March 13 to May 16, 2010***

PHILADELPHIA—The snout of a pig. The wavy tongue of a Great Dane. The eye of a Komodo dragon. These intriguing photographs are part of a distinct exploration of animal portraiture at the Academy of Natural Sciences in *Looking at Animals*, opening March 13.

*Looking at Animals* features 24 large-format, black-and-white images by noted photographer Harry Horenstein, a photography professor at the Rhode Island School of Design and author of more than 30 books. Complementing many of Horenstein's photographs are animal specimens from the Academy's world-renowned research collections, including the skull of a flamingo, the disarticulated skeleton of a giraffe, and the skeletal foot of an infamous circus elephant named Bolivar. Daily live-animal presentations by Academy teacher-naturalists combine for a well-rounded experience of art and science for visitors of all ages.

In his haunting sepia-tone prints, Horenstein deconstructs his subjects into ambiguous fragments of skin, scales and hair. His photographs challenge the anticipated ways of seeing animals and invite viewers to pause, look closely, and think about what is in front of them. In doing so, he engages curiosity and draws audiences into careful consideration of his subjects. By encouraging the viewer to really look, Horenstein's abstracted images become more truly representative than traditional animal photographs.

"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."

### **Many ways to look at animals**

Featured alongside many of the photographs are selections from the Academy's extensive zoological collections. The juxtaposition of artwork and scientific specimens shows that there are many different ways to look at animals.

Perhaps the most intriguing item on display is the skeletal foot that once belonged to Bolivar, an enormous male Asian elephant with a nasty temper. In 1882, the Adam Forepaugh Circus billed Bolivar as the "largest and heaviest elephant in the world." But he was also one of the

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meanest—too mean for the circus. So, in 1888, he was given to the Philadelphia Zoo, where he remained chained up in his stall until his death in 1908. Bolivar's remains came to the Academy where, for the next 10 years, his skeleton and mounted hide were displayed side by side. Now, 100 years later, Bolivar—or at least his foot—is back in the limelight. The rest of him remains in basement storage.

*Looking at Animals* runs through May 16 and is free with museum admission. Daily educational animal talks with the Academy's live animals, including birds and reptiles, will take place either in the exhibit itself or elsewhere, depending on the size of the audience.

"Between the art, the specimens, and the live-animal encounters, this exhibit lets our visitors experience animals in ways that are unexpected and exciting," said Barbara Ceiga, Vice President for Public Operations.

### **About the Photographer**

Henry Horenstein has worked as a photographer, teacher and author since the early 1970s. He is a professor of photography at the Rhode Island School of Design and author of more than 30 books. His first textbook, *Black-and-White Photography: A Basic Manual*, published during his final year of graduate school at RISD, has sold more than 600,000 copies, and three other books, *Beyond Basic Photography*, *Color Photography* and *Photography* are widely used in photography teaching programs across the country. His work is held in the collections of numerous museums including the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and Houston's Museum of Fine Arts.

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!*