

## PRESS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

# VANESSA PASCHAKARIS

## BEASTS AND BURDENS

FEBRUARY 25 to APRIL 30, 2010

Opening: February 25 from 5 to 8 pm, the artist will be present

Montreal, February 13, 2010 – Galerie Samuel Lallouz is pleased to exhibit sculptor Vanessa Paschakarnis' recent works. *Beasts and Burdens* artfully reconciles the dichotomy between physical weight (beasts), and metaphorical weight (burdens). This body of works result from a deep exploration of the human condition. Paschakarnis has a penchant for resolving contradictions, both her craftsmanship and subject matter evidence this.

She purposefully leaves her works scarred and weather beaten, thus rendering her beasts both violent and vulnerable. Their scars can be interpreted as testaments of endurance, as well as forewarning its limits. Paschakarnis' rough and unfinished effects naturalize her sculptures – so that her *Domesticated Beasts* can easily be mistaken for found objects. She enjoys leaving room for ambiguity. One can barely recognize the familiar features of beasts. They appear as though in a constant state of mutability and self-definition. The sculptures are not meant to resemble existing creatures but question what it means to exist and feel.

There is a sensual element in the tactility of her sculptures reminding us of our precarious nature and the corruptibility of flesh. *Blue Bell* (2008) and *Blue Echo* (2008) resemble carcasses or raw animal hides juxtaposed to her primordial beast heads. A melancholic aura surrounds these suspended bronze sheets. The scarred flesh-colour undersides are evocative of mortal wounds – its inside and outside inextricably exposed.

Paschakarnis' inanimate objects heighten our awareness of living experiences and sensations on an intellectual and physical level. The artist's passion for sculpture stems from her desire to provide the viewer with a physical encounter. What we ultimately end up with is an immediate experience of personal reconciliation with our own conflicting beasts and burdens.

— 30 —

For additional information please contact the gallery: [info@galeriesamuellallouz.com](mailto:info@galeriesamuellallouz.com)