

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Larassa Kabel "And All of This So Far From Heaven"

March 25 – April 30, 2011

Opening Reception Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 9pm



The latest exhibition at **PEEL** “And All of This So Far From Heaven” features new work by Des Moines, Iowa based artist Larassa Kabel. Kabel creates pencil drawings of animals, female figures and close-up images of human hair among others in the photorealistic tradition. Photorealism evolved in the 1960’s and 70’s from Pop Art as a reaction to reproductive media from television and photography. Similar to photorealism, Kabel’s drawings begin with a photographic image that distorts the viewer’s perception between reality and art. Unlike the often optically charged and reflective photorealist paintings, Kabel’s work deals with an intimate subject matter that differs psychologically from the photorealist images. As the artist states, her drawings are “so flexible, that they can somehow contain so many other people’s memories while still being something deeply personal to me.”\*

Images of animals in art have existed side by side with those of humans since prehistoric times. The animal continues to remain a powerful image in contemporary art. The drawings of horses exhibited at **PEEL** explore the human creative and psychological evolution that is inextricably tied to our relationships with animals. The oddly cropped images exploit the distortions that the photographic process imposes on real life situations encouraging the viewer to transfer his own experiences to the work. While retaining the original photographic look, the drawings question the ‘reality’ of the drawn image, conjuring up different memories for each viewer. Texture is of essence in Kabel’s imagery and it seems to be the connecting point between her personal memories and those of the viewer. Kabel’s work will be on view from March 25<sup>th</sup> through April 30, 2011.

\*Credit: Exhibition catalog, Iowa Artists 2010, Des Moines Art Center