

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2010

## Amanda Besl – “*Riding Lessons*”

**Exhibition Dates:** May 25<sup>th</sup> – June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Artist Reception:** Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm



“Lizzie” 2010. Oil on wood panel, 7.25” x 10”



“Bare Back” 2010. Oil on panel  
7.5” x 5”



“Charge” 2010. Oil on wood panel, 5.75” x 5.75”

Amanda Besl’s most recent body of work entitled “*Riding Lessons*” straddles the strong bond between adolescent girls and their equine obsessions. Her subjects are at the cusp of adulthood and precariously place themselves between adolescence and burgeoning self-awareness. Besl’s work examines these seemingly simple narratives with playful yet menacing undertones.

The ability to control an animal ten times her size using only her legs, weight, hands, and voice is a powerful bonding experience for a teenager, whose physicality is shifting and morphing beyond her control.

Besl’s paintings are small in size in order to allow a more intimate viewing experience, recalling their history as photographic images. The paintings emerge from the wall as frozen suggestive moments. The artist is interested in the perception of what is ordinary to a horse-obsessed suburban teenager amidst the languid beauty of endless adolescent summer days. In fact, to view these paintings is to partake in a visual eavesdropping on the secretive world that engulfs today’s young girl.

Amanda Besl received her MFA from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in 2001 and BFA Fine Arts from SUNY Oswego, NY. She has exhibited extensively throughout Europe and US. She was most recently included in a group show at Galerie Sandrine Mons in Nice, France and at Rusart in Moscow, Russia. She resides in Buffalo, New York.

**Hours:** Monday - Saturday 11-7, Sun. 12-6 • **Subway:** C, E exit 23rd @ 8th Ave. I, 9 exit 23rd @ 7th Ave.