

You are invited to the next Melbourne Salon at the Alliance Française.

Wednesday 24 July 2013, 7pm - 9 pm

**A CITY OF LOVE AND A TERRE SAUVAGE
French Dreams, Australian Dreams**

**Stephen Alomes
and
Sarah Turnbull in conversation with Elaine Lewis**

We all live partly through our dreams: they allow us to transcend what are sometimes the banalities of everyday life.

A recurring Australian dream is that of being 'lost in France', of being transformed by experiencing Paris as a 'city of love'. It is a powerful dream for artists past and present and a passionate dream for many women writers who tell tales of becoming 'almost French'. At the same time, the French have long had a fascination with the 'terre sauvage' and the 'indigènes'. Many years ago they took Omai from Tahiti to Paris to help discover these worlds. These ideas also shape the journeys of young French working holiday travellers, and other tourists, as they explore the Australias of the frontier and are fascinated by Aboriginal culture and art.

This illustrated talk by Stephen Alomes explores dreams and present day dreamers, from the north and from the south.

Sarah Turnbull's wryly observant and hugely entertaining story *Almost French* quickly became an international bestseller. For many Australians, finding the love of your life and moving to Paris would come pretty close to living the dream. So leaving Paris behind was never going to be easy. But it helps when your destination is known as paradise on earth. In conversation with Elaine Lewis, Sarah shares the next chapter of her story.

Stephen Alomes is an Adjunct Professor in Global Studies at RMIT University and Vice President of ISFAR. He has written books on Australian expatriates in London, on sporting dreams and realities, and edited books on a changing France and Australia and France and the Pacific.

Sarah Turnbull is the author of the international bestseller *Almost French*. Formerly a television journalist with SBS in Sydney, she began working as a freelance writer following her move to Paris in 1994. After nearly a decade in France, Sarah spent several years on an island in French Polynesia. She now lives in Sydney.

Elaine Lewis founded the Australian Bookshop in Paris in 1996 to promote Australian writers. Her book *Left Bank Waltz: the Australian Bookshop in Paris* was published by Random House Australia in 2006. She is currently co-editor of *Explorations*, the journal of ISFAR.

Cover charge payable on the night (includes cheese and wine) – cash only please: \$15

Bookings essential: themelbournesalon@gmail.com or 9925 2264 (numbers limited).