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

Thursday 23rd July 2015, 7pm - 9 pm

An Exercise in Agape

Catherine de Saint Phalle and Eden Liddelow

How does a translation come to you?
Why/how do you decide to translate something?
Are there different voices in translation?
What is a bad translation?
Why is translation an exercise in Agape?

Come and discover the answers to these questions and many more from two experienced and successful writers and translators. Eden Liddelow and Catherine de Saint Phalle will discuss how they are drawn to what to translate, and explain some of the challenges they face along the way. Catherine and Eden will be translating excerpts of each other's work and revealing these to each other on the night. Both authors will also be discussing and launching their new books on the evening and these will be available for sale* and signings after the talk.


On Brunswick Ground traverses the world of longing, grief and personal loss with an assured and literary touch. It is a novel that is also heart-warming, and affirming. Catherine de Saint Phalle truly understands the surprising ways in which tragedy and loss can tighten the bonds of friendship and of a community.

Eden Liddelow, You Have No New Messages by Philippe Delerm (Acland Publishing), June 2014.

Acclaimed French novelist Philippe Delerm brings a Parisian sensibility, full of irony and literary wit, to mediatized daily life as we all know it. In each of these ready-made sentences he reveals a wealth of subtleties, little failings, wry humour. The truths of our lives. These little stories move from the tender to the mocking and the melancholy, alighting on meaning in the words which fail us, and the moments all of us - especially those who are older - have lived.

Dr Eden Liddelow's numerous stories and essays on fiction, poetry, language, modernism, psychoanalysis, politics and cultural studies have appeared in Best Australian Essays, Meanjin, Arena, Southerly and Heat. Her journalism has appeared in The Age, The Australian and the Sunday Herald. Her poetry collection, and trees are trees (Paradox) appeared in April 2008 and she was shortlisted for the ACU Poetry prize in 2014. Her latest critical book From Big Brother to Big Brother: nihilism in the age of screens (Academica, Palo Alto, USA) appeared in 2013.

Catherine de Saint Phalle has had five novels published in France. In 2003 she moved to Australia because the sky is bigger and the people are warmer. As well as her fiction writing, she has translated and adapted Jack Kerouac's On the Road for France Culture Radio, where it was broadcast as a series of twenty episodes in 2005. A French tutor, she also curates a small gallery in Brunswick, where she is ensconced with her partner, a poet and bookseller. Sous un Ciel Immense (Sabine Wespieser), the author's own French version of On Brunswick Ground, is being released simultaneously.

Chair: Dr Kerry Mullan is coordinator of French Studies at RMIT University, co-convenor of the Melbourne Salon and Secretary of the Institute for the Study of French Australian Relations (ISFAR).

Cover charge payable on the night (includes cheese and wine) – cash only please: $15.
*Book sales cash only please. Bookings essential: AFM (numbers limited).