

MEDIA RELEASE

2 June 2016



Photo credit: Frédéric Mouchet, 'Cape du Couedic, Flinders Chase National Park, Kangaroo Island', 2015

Frédéric Mouchet - The South Australia of the French Explorers

See the expressive power of South Australia's landscapes steeped in history in this stunning photographic exhibition at the State Library

On display for the first time, the State Library of South Australia is privileged to be hosting the exhibition ***Frédéric Mouchet – The South Australia of the French Explorers***. In the 18th and 19th centuries the French explored the spectacular coastline of Australia. Now over 200 years later, French photographer Frédéric Mouchet has retraced their steps to capture the environment not unlike what the seafaring explorers originally saw. Mouchet's stunning contemporary photographs of South Australia's landscapes include Kangaroo Island, Encounter Bay – Victor Harbor, Spencer Gulf and the Great Australian Bight.

Frédéric Mouchet, in Adelaide for the launch of his photographic exhibition, comments, "I'm very excited to be showing my photographs of places visited by the French explorers in South Australia. I feel it is difficult to captivate or convince an audience when showing images of their close environment rather than exotic images. I'm eager to hear South Australians' feedback about the places they visit regularly in their daily life or holiday time."

Believing in the expressive power of landscapes steeped in history or spirituality, Mouchet shows a deep understanding of the important link between geography, the people and their culture. In this exhibition Mouchet's work draws a parallel between his contemporary photographs and the historical drawings by the explorers showing the Aboriginal people and Australian fauna and flora.

Also in Adelaide for the exhibition launch, **His Excellency Mr Christophe Lecourtier**, Ambassador of France in Australia says, "The French explorers that sailed around Terra Australis more than 200 years ago were brave navigators and magnificent artists. Today, Frédéric Mouchet is creating a new encounter between these men and their extraordinary documents with his photos. It's an opportunity for the public to see Australia as the first explorers and French navigators did in the 18th century, and a contemporary contribution to the historical link and continuous friendship between France and Australia."

The photos for this exhibition have generously been reproduced and framed by Atkins Photo Lab, Australia's oldest lab. **Paul Atkins**, Director Atkins Photo Lab, says, "We are thrilled to be partnering with the State Library of South Australia to bring these important pictures into the light. Frédéric Mouchet's work is a beautiful reflection of a history that first recorded Australia, it is a great addition to the photographic record."

This exhibition has been a collaborative effort by many, including Frédéric Mouchet, Embassy of France in Australia, Atkins Photo Lab and is also part of the Creative France in South Australia initiative. **Alan Smith**, Director State Library of South Australia, comments, "We pride ourselves on our collaborative approach to bringing interesting exhibitions, such as this, to the South Australian community. As a cultural institution we play an important role in connecting the community to the value of different cultures and highlighting the influences those cultures have on our state."

Complementing the Mouchet exhibition is ***Chance encounter – French influence in South Australia***. Beginning with the published charts of the French exploring party under Capitaine Nicolas Baudin, the exhibition highlights the influence of the French on the culture of South Australia. The exhibition displays items from the collections of the State Library, including an exquisite 16th century French Book of Hours, the memoir of an English cabin boy who as a prisoner of war met Napoleon and a French children's game which includes a leaping tin kangaroo.

Together the exhibitions show the long friendship that exists between France and Australia, starting 200 years ago. Both exhibitions are on display in the Treasures Wall area at the State Library of South Australia until the 14 August 2016.

EXHIBITIONS DETAILS:

Frédéric Mouchet – The South Australia of the French explorers | Photographic exhibition

Chance encounter: French influence in South Australia | From the collections of the State Library of South Australia.

Both exhibitions are on display from:

8 June – 14 August 2016

Open – Mon-Wed 10am – 8pm, Thu-Fri 10am – 6pm, Sat-Sun 10am – 5pm. Closed public holidays.

Treasures Wall

State Library of South Australia

Corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide

Free entry

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

Media note: Frédéric Mouchet will be available for interviews, to arrange contact:

Beverly Scott

Manager Marketing

State Library of South Australia

Phone 08 8207 7221 or mb 0467 770 793

beverly.scott@sa.gov.au

www.slsa.sa.gov.au