GAL LIC

2020
Join us for another year of fantastic stories with a sense of place.

Our 2020 catalogue includes three new novels from Gallic favourites Edward Carey, Muriel Barbery and Antoine Laurain, taking us from within the darkest depths of a huge sea creature, to a mysterious land of mists, to the book-lined halls of a Parisian publishing house.

We continue to publish standout francophone writing as part of our exciting new collection, Editions Gallic. Later this year, we launch a project that is very close to our hearts: Revolutionary Women, a carefully curated selection of works from trailblazing French female writers who we believe have been far too long overlooked. We hope you will enjoy discovering their work as much as we have.
GALIC New Titles
The Swallowed Man
Edward Carey

‘I am writing this account, in another man's book, by candlelight, inside the belly of a fish. I have been eaten. I have been eaten, yet I am living still.’

From the acclaimed author of *Little* comes this beautiful and haunting imagining of the years Geppetto spends within the belly of a sea beast. Ever the creator, he finds new ways to make art, all the while musing on relationships past: his wayward, lost son of wood, his own difficult ‘Babbo’, and love affairs long gone. He is accompanied by his memories, the tiny crab that lives in his beard, and images of the family of Captain Tugthus, whose swallowed ship gives Geppetto provisions and shelter inside the fish. And then there is an eerie disembodied voice …

Drawing upon the classic Pinocchio story while creating something entirely his own, Carey tells an unforgettable tale of fatherly love and loss, of pride and regret, and of the sustaining power of art and imagination. Geppetto's moving tale is brought to life in Carey's beautiful images and photographs.
Praise for Little

A Times and Sunday Times Book of the Year
Shortlisted for the HWA Crown Awards 2019
Longlisted for the International Dublin Literary Award 2020
Longlisted for the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction 2019
Longlisted for the Rathbones Folio Prize 2019
Longlisted for the RSL Ondaatje Prize 2019

‘Don’t miss this eccentric charmer’ @MargaretAtwood
‘Absolutely brilliant’ Susan Hill
‘Edward Carey’s Little is one of the most original historical novels of the year (...) Inspired, vivid and macabre, Little is a remarkable achievement’ Sunday Times
‘A startlingly original novel’ The Times
‘Rich and engrossing, there is an extraordinary potency to Carey’s material ... A visceral, vivid and moving novel’ The Guardian
‘In this gloriously gruesome imagining of the girlhood of Marie Tussaud, mistress of wax, fleas will bite, rats will run and heads will roll and roll and roll. Guts’n’gore galore: I bloody loved it’ The Spectator
‘Compelling ... Carey’s story is cinematic in scope and fairy tale-like in its attention to coincidence – and to the fateful cycle of pride and fall’ TLS
‘Carey creates a quirky, indelible character in Little, sprinkles idiosyncratic drawings throughout and folds his narrative in cunning ways’ BBC Culture
‘Clever and intriguing’ Daily Mail

Edward Carey is a novelist, visual artist and playwright. He is the author of the novels Observatory Mansions, Alva & Irva, and the acclaimed YA series The Iremonger Trilogy, which has been published in 13 countries and has been optioned for film adaptation. After university, Edward worked at Madame Tussauds in London, preventing people from touching the waxworks, and it was there that he learnt the incredible story of the museum’s founder which became the basis for his novel Little, now published in 18 countries. Born in England, Edward teaches at the University of Texas at Austin.
The Readers’ Room
Antoine Laurain
Translated by Jane Aitken & Emily Boyce

A dazzling novel of mystery, love and the power of books from the bestselling author of *The Red Notebook*.

When the manuscript of a debut crime novel arrives at a Parisian publishing house, everyone in the readers’ room is convinced it’s something special. And the committee for France’s highest literary honour, the Prix Goncourt, agrees.

But when the shortlist is announced, there’s a problem for editor Violaine Lepage: she has no idea of the author’s identity. As the police begin to investigate a series of murders strangely reminiscent of those recounted in the book, Violaine is not the only one looking for answers. And, suffering memory blanks following an aeroplane accident, she’s beginning to wonder what role she might play in the story …
Praise for Vintage 1954
‘A glorious time-slip caper ... Just wonderful’ Daily Mail
‘Delightfully nostalgic escapism set in a gorgeously conjured Paris of 1954’ Sunday Mirror

Praise for The Red Notebook
‘This is in equal parts an offbeat romance, detective story and a clarion call for metropolitans to look after their neighbours ... Reading The Red Notebook is a little like finding a gem among the bric-a-brac in a local brocante’ Christian House, The Telegraph
‘Resist this novel if you can; it’s the very quintessence of French romance’ The Times
‘Soaked in Parisian atmosphere, this lovely, clever, funny novel will have you rushing to the Eurostar post-haste ... A gem’ Daily Mail

Praise for The President’s Hat
A hymn to la vie Parisienne ... enjoy it for its fabulistic narrative, and the way it teeters pleasantly on the edge of Gallic whimsy’ Nicholas Lezard’s Paperback of the Week, The Guardian
‘Part eccentric romance, part detective story ... this book makes perfect holiday reading’ The Lady
‘Flawless ... a funny, clever, feel-good social satire with the page-turning quality of a great detective novel’ Rosie Goldsmith

Antoine Laurain is the award-winning author of six previous novels including The Red Notebook and The President’s Hat. A truly born and bred Parisian, after studying film, he began his career directing short films and writing screenplays. His passion for art led him to take a job assisting an antiques dealer in Paris. The experience provided the inspiration for his first novel, The Portrait, winner of the Prix Drouot. Antoine’s novels have been translated into more than 20 languages and have sold over 180,000 copies in English.

Jane Aitken is a publisher and translator. She was awarded the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres in 2009 for her work in promoting French literature in the UK.

Emily Boyce is an editor and translator. She was shortlisted for the French-American Translation Prize in 2016.
A Strange Country
Muriel Barbery
Translated by Alison Anderson

The richly imagined companion novel to Barbery’s The Life of Elves.

Alejandro de Yepes and Jesús Rocamora, young officers in the Spanish army, are stationed alone during the longest war in the history of humankind. When the mysterious Petrus appears out of nowhere, they abandon their post to follow him across a bridge they cannot see.

Petrus’s world is one of lingering fog, strange beings and extraordinary beauty. It is also where the fate of our world, and all its living creatures, is decided. Yet it is under threat. As the battle against the forces of disenchantment draws to a climactic close, can poetry and beauty prevail over darkness and death? And what role will Alejandro and Jesús play?

Praise for The Life of Elves
‘A truly enchanting story, beautifully told and rich in meaning. (...) this book truly deserves to be read by story lovers of all ages’ Irish Times
‘A beguiling fairy tale’ New York Times

Praise for The Elegance of the Hedgehog
‘Resistance is futile ... you might as well buy it before someone recommends it for your book group. Its charm will make you say yes’ The Guardian
‘Clever, informative and moving ... this is an admirable novel which deserves as wide a readership here as it had in France’ The Observer

Muriel Barbery has written three previous novels. The Elegance of the Hedgehog was translated into more than forty languages and has sold over ten million copies worldwide.

Alison Anderson is a literary translator, and is herself a published author.
A Hundred Million Years and a Day
Jean-Baptiste Andrea
Translated by Sam Taylor

I will, inevitably, forget many things, perhaps even my own name. But I will never forget my first fossil . . . It was three hundred million years old, and I was six.

Summer 1954. Palaeontologist Stan hears a story he cannot forget: the skeleton of a huge creature – a veritable dragon – lies deep in an Alpine glacier. The first complete brontosaurus fossil, or a new species they’ll name Titanosaurus stanislasi in his honour? Whatever it is, whatever it takes, he’s determined to find it.

Jean-Baptiste Andrea tells a gripping and cinematic tale of dreams, obsessions, and the poignant friendship forged between a group of men pushed to their limits.

Praise for A Hundred Million Years and a Day
‘A sublime and beautiful book’ Carys Davies, author of West
‘Every line is golden. It’s impossible to describe it without selling it short. It is a small, perfect thing, beautiful and devastating’ Sara Taylor, author of The Shore
‘Using beautiful imagery and poetic language, Andrea takes us to the mountains for an adventure that is as cruel as it is magical’ Le Figaro
‘Gripping and poetic, it keeps you hooked until the final page’ La Croix
‘Under Jean-Baptiste Andrea’s skilled penmanship, the alpine adventure novel becomes a moving tale of personal discovery, and the fossil, a brilliant metaphor for the search for perfection’ Le Nouveau Magazine Littéraire
‘The author’s voice has the imagination to move mountains, but shows an awareness that the journey means more than the destination. We’re with the narrator every step of the way, admiring his determination to fulfil his dream’ Libération

Jean-Baptiste Andrea was born in 1971 in Saint-Germain-en-Laye and grew up in Cannes. A director and screenwriter, he wrote his first English-language feature film Dead End in 2003, to critical acclaim. His first novel, Ma Reine, was published in France in 2017 and won the Prix du Premier Roman and the Prix Femina des Lycéens.

Sam Taylor is an author and former correspondent for The Observer. His first translation, Laurent Binet’s HHhH, was shortlisted for three awards, including the 2012 French-American Translation Prize.
Wild Dog
Serge Joncour
Translated by Jane Aitken & Polly Mackintosh

Echoes of a dark, savage past run wild in this captivating tale from prize-winning French novelist Serge Joncour.

An isolated house on a French hillside. Two couples, a hundred years apart, seek refuge from the outside world. But as wild creatures prowl and threats swarm in, is it a place of shelter, or danger? A haunting reminder of the savagery that exists within all of us.

Praise for Wild Dog
‘So original, so beautifully done, and sinister and savage. I didn’t want it to end’ Chris Whitaker, author of Tall Oaks
‘A magnificent allegory for the ways in which the modern world wears us down . . . A unique voice’ Le Figaro
‘A hymn to space and calm’ Libération
‘Holds the reader in suspense until the very last page’ L’Express
‘Proof of Serge Joncour’s immense talent and understanding of human subtleties’ Marie Claire
‘An ode to nature’ Le Point
‘Joncour is a magician’ Le Temps

WINNER OF THE 2018 LANDERNEAU READERS’ PRIZE

Serge Joncour is a French novelist and screenwriter, born in Paris in 1961. He wrote the screenplay for Sarah’s Key starring Kristin Scott Thomas, released in 2011. His 2016 novel Repose-toi sur moi won the Prix Interallié.

Jane Aitken is a publisher and translator.
Polly Mackintosh is an editorial assistant and translator.

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When the night train pulled into Paris, she was dead. And the riddle began . . .

A beautiful young woman lies sprawled on her berth in the sleeping car of the night train from Marseille to Paris. She is not in the embrace of sleep, or even in the arms of one of her many lovers. She is dead. And the unpleasant task of finding her killer is handed to overworked, crime-weary police detective Pierre ‘Grazzi’ Grazziano, who would rather play hide-and-seek with his little son than cat and mouse with a diabolically cunning, savage murderer.

Sébastien Japrisot takes the reader on an express ride of riveting suspense that races through a Parisian landscape of lust, deception and death. With corpses turning up everywhere, the question becomes not only who is the killer, but who will be the next victim . . .

Praise for Sébastien Japrisot

‘With an instantly recognisable style and great story-telling techniques, he might be called the Graham Greene of France’ The Independent

‘The most welcome talent since the early Simenons’ New York Times

‘Utterly captivating’ The Guardian

‘Combines huge intellectual grasp with fascinating narrative, strong grues, fine writing … and an unforgettable protagonist… A superb achievement’ Sunday Times

Sébastien Japrisot was a prominent French author, screenwriter and film director, and the French translator of J. D. Salinger. Born in Marseille in 1931, he died in 2003.

Francis Price is a translator and editor whose translations include God’s Bits of Wood by Ousmane Sembène.
Editions Gallic returns to Gallic Books’ original mission of bringing together the very best of French in English.

A combination of classic and contemporary French literature, the collection aims to bring readers back to old favourites as well as introducing new titles from iconic francophone authors.
How’s the Pain?
Pascal Garnier
Translated by Emily Boyce

An Editions Gallic reissue of an iconic work by the master of grisly French noir, complete with an introduction from Booker-winning novelist John Banville.

Death is Simon’s business. And now the ageing vermin exterminator is preparing to die. But he still has one last job down on the coast, and he needs a driver.

Bernard is twenty-one. He can drive and he’s never seen the sea. He can’t pass up the chance to chauffeur for Simon, whatever his mother may say.

As the unlikely pair set off on their journey, Bernard soon finds that Simon’s definition of vermin is broader than he’d expected…

Veering from the hilarious to the horrific, this offbeat story from master stylist, Pascal Garnier, is at heart an affecting study of human frailty.

Praise for Pascal Garnier
‘Masterly’ John Banville
‘Garnier plunges you into a bizarre, overheated world, seething death, writing, fictions and philosophy. He’s a trippy, sleazy, sly and classy read’ A. L. Kennedy
‘Action-packed and full of gallows humour’ Sunday Telegraph
‘Deliciously dark … painfully funny’ New York Times

Pascal Garnier was a master of French noir, in the tradition of Georges Simenon. Twelve of his novels have been published in English. He died in 2010.

Emily Boyce is an editor and translator. She was shortlisted for the French-American Translation Prize in 2016.
‘WOMEN HAVE NO PLACE UNDER THE FIST OF MAN’
Marie-Louise Gagneur
Most bibliophiles will name Simone de Beauvoir, George Sand and Colette among the greats of French literature. Yet they only represent the tip of a subversive, transgressive and deeply political iceberg of women writers who have changed the literary and social landscape. Through Revolutionary Women we aim to celebrate French and francophone women writers who have been overlooked, and to restore important female writers to their rightful place in the canon.

As a woman-owned independent publisher, boasting an all-female team of in-house translators and editors, Gallic Books is ideally placed to take on this project. Working with popular illustrator Ella Masters, Gallic Books aims to curate an irresistibly collectable list with a wide commercial appeal as well as important literary merit. We hope that Gallic Books can share these incredible women with modern readers and give them the respect and recognition they deserve.
The protégée of Simone de Beauvoir, **Violette Leduc** was a pioneer of autofiction and has been described by Deborah Levy as ‘incapable of a boring sentence’. Her memoir *La Bâtarde* was so controversial that the Goncourt had to officially declare it ineligible in order to give the award to safer choices.

Gallic Books will be publishing *Asphyxia*, a new edition of Derek Coltman’s 1970 translation of *In the Prison of Her Skin*. In this extraordinary semi-autobiographical novel, Leduc looks back on her childhood with unparalleled honesty and literary skill.

**Renée Vivien** was a sapphic poet of the Belle Époque, the lover of poet and playwright Natalie Clifford Barney, and a friend and contemporary of Colette.

Gallic Books will be publishing *The Woman of the Wolf and Other Stories*, a collection in which Vivien queers and feminises myth and biblical tales, often in deeply uncomfortable ways that jar with modern ideas of ‘women’s writing’.

A tireless activist for the rights of both women and the working class, **Marie-Louise Gagneur** is a great example of early intersectional feminism. She was fiercely anti-clerical and sceptical of the laws governing marriage in the nineteenth century. Gallic Books will be publishing a duo of novellas, each looking at the ways in which men and women were trapped and diminished by her society’s marriage culture.
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