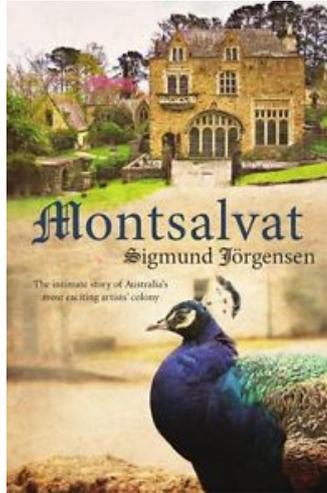




Eltham South Fine Art  
Studios & Gallery

Are proud to announce

*A Late Sunday Literary Afternoon*  
with  
**SIGMUND JÖRGENSEN**



**Sunday 15 February 3.00pm**

Sigmund Jörgensen will be joining us for *High Tea* and speaking about his recent book *Montsalvat*. The book tells about his life of travel, working in the theatre in London, his sojourns into running restaurants in Melbourne as well as his many years running his father's (Justus Jörgensen) Montsalvat Artist Colony in Eltham. Sigmund also writes about the early Meldrum Art School where his father was a pupil and the associated Melbourne literati that include the editor of the *The Bulletin* Mervyn Skipper.

This book is essential reading for anyone interested in the history life and times of Montsalvat and the associated artistic community.

Bookings:

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**Cost: \$15** donation  
includes Jenni's special High Tea

**6 Mt. Pleasant Road, Eltham Vic. 3095**  
(Next door to vet)

[www.ElthamSouthFineArt.com.au](http://www.ElthamSouthFineArt.com.au)

## *Sigmund Jörgensen's Biography*

*Sigmund Jörgensen, the youngest son of Justus Jörgensen, was born and raised within the artistic family of Montsalvat, educated locally and then attended the Melbourne University.*

*At the University he became involved in student theatre and went on to direct a number of drama and film festivals. In 1963 he became director of drama for the National Union of Australian University Students. In 1964 after a stint with the Elizabethan Theatre Trust where he had worked for both the Elizabethan Opera (now the Australian Ballet) and Australian Ballet Companies and also the commercial theatre for Garnet Carroll.*

*He was invited lead the tour of a student theatre delegation to several European Drama Festivals after which he spent several years working in the professional theatre in London – from various commercial managements plus the National companies like the Royal Opera, Royal Ballet, etc. He also set up his own company (Dolphin Theatre Properties) which accepted contracts to makes scenery, props, etc. for the above companies, including doing all the stage jewellery and working on the costumes for the London premier production of “Canterbury Tales” designed by Loudon Saint-Hill.*

*In 1969 he was approached by his family and asked to return to Australia to take over the reins of Montsalvat which was at that time literally falling apart and appeared likely to have to close..*

*He accepted the challenge and acted as the director of Montsalvat for the next thirtysix years completely re-building Montsalvat into what it is a today.*

*He developed a range of commercial activities which were used to subsidise the artistic activities which included festivals, concerts, exhibitions, studios and workshops where artists could work and teach. By refurbishing some of the buildings he was able to create the exhibitions that are available for use today.*

*Early successes included many society weddings and the press reception for the “Rolling Stones.*

*In the early seventies he joined with a number of local poets to found the Montsalvat Poet's Festival which ran for the next thirty years and showcased all the leading poets in Australia – in many way this was the singular most important achievement of his career as an entrepreneur.*

*In 1977 he founded Clichy Restaurant in Collingwood and with partner Iain Hewitson helped change the eating habits of Melbourne with a new and innovative approach. The sub-text of the restaurant was 'original food in the French manner' and was inspired by the latest developments in Europe. Clichy became known as a place of innovation and creativity – along with Iain's food came a great wine list collected by Sigmund which featured the wines of Victoria – a first for Melbourne. Sigmund ran Clichy for ten years, during which time it received many accolades – including three hats in The Age Good Food Guide, restaurant of the decade and also it was named as one of the five most influential restaurants in the second half of the twentieth century. In her recent book “Melbourne by Menu” the food writer Rita Erlich devoted a chapter to Sigmund's exploits in the industry. She described him such “A man with a passion for food, wine and art, and an appetite for a challenge”*

*For several years Sigmund turned his hand to food consultancy, writing and criticism and was appointed a judge for the Asian Food Festival for several years.*

*In the 1980's he founded and hosted the highly acclaimed Montsalvat International Jazz Festivals which featured some of the finest jazz performers in the world including exclusive appearances by McCoy Tyner, Nat Adderley and many others from across the world.*

*Always up for a challenge he entered the fray of local politics and was elected as a Shire Wide Councillor and later Mayor of Nillumbik.*

*In 2005 he stepped down as the Montsalvat CEO but has been retained as the arts and heritage advisor and also as a director of the Montsalvat Ltd who act as the trustee. for Montsalvat.*

*The Australian Government recognised his achievements and awarded him a AOM for services to the Arts.*

*In September 2014 Allen and Unwin published Sigmund's book “Montsalvat” in which he traces the history of Montsalvat from its founders to the present day. He is now pondering on a couple of other books about his involvement in the arts which he hopes to begin writing in 2015.*

*On October 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 the Board of Montsalvat shocked many in the community by terminating his employment at Montsalvat as the Arts and Heritage Advisor.*

*Most recently he has been recognised by the Nillumbik Community with an 2015 Australia Day award. Currently he is out of work, broke and trying to get his old job back failing that the pension.*