

SYDNEY LIVE

As Seine from above

Postcards From Paris:
Annabel Butler
Charles Hewitt Gallery
Exhibition



An exhibition which opens on Thursday at Charles Hewitt Gallery tells a sea-change story about Paris in the summertime and a Sydney lawyer who threw in the corporate life to become an artist.

Annabel Butler was a bright young professional when she realised that her heart just wasn't in it. "It wasn't for me; I had always wanted to go to art school," Butler says.

So, in February 1996, she enrolled at the National Art School in Darlinghurst.

"As soon as I got on campus I realised I had done the right thing," she says.

After graduating in 1998, she travelled to New York where she lived and studied for three years. The flight that returned Butler to Sydney left New York on the morning of September 11, 2001 — "the last plane in the world to land where the passengers



Passion . . . Annabel Butler at home in East Sydney with some of the paintings inspired by her trip to Paris.

Picture: KATRINA TEPPER

didn't know what happened [the terrorist attacks in the US].

"The pilots knew. But they were told to keep flying."

Last year, Butler secured an artist's residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts on the banks of the Seine in Paris.

In the stifling Parisian summer, she took to sleeping on her balcony. During her seven-month stay, she was captivated

by the "higgledy piggedy" rooftops of Paris. "I really got captured by the chimney pots. To me they were like little families," Butler says.

In Butler's exhibition, *Postcards From Paris*, 66 works focus on Paris as seen from up high.

□ 335 South Dowling St,
Darlinghurst. Thursday until
August 28, 9331 4988

ELIZABETH FORTESCUE