



Miami Dade College

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF ART AND DESIGN AT MDC PRESENTS THE READING SERIES *TO WRITE MIAMI*

Miami, FL, March 25, 2019—Museum of Art and Design (MOAD) at *Miami Dade College* (MDC) will present *To Write Miami*, a series of readings by Miami authors that explores the city's fascinating relationship with literature. Participating writers include **Lynne Barrett, Scott P. Cunningham, John Dufresne, Patricia Engel, Fabienne Josaphat, Pedro Medina León, Legna Rodríguez Iglesias, Les Standiford, and Hernán Vera Álvarez**. Events will take place the **last Wednesday** of every month from **April through October**, with an additional activity on **May 15**. The eight readings will be held at **Soya e Pomodoro restaurant** in Downtown Miami and they are **free and open to the public**.

Writers who choose a city as their muse give voice to both a place and a people. Part scribe, part dreamer, they issue facts along with fantasies, leaving behind a history of the intangible realities of urban life—of a people's heartbreak and of their joy, of their loss and of their growth. The series *To Write Miami* brings nine beloved Miami writers to Soya & Pomodoro restaurant over eight nights to explore how stories emerge from the raw sights and sounds of the city they love. The series demonstrates how writers pay homage to Miami and how, in turn, Miami feeds their creativity. The innovative readings will include performative elements, reflections on the city that nurtures and inspires, and conversations on the writing process that often begins before words are even placed on the page.

To Write Miami accompanies MOAD's *A City of the People* series, which will take place at multiple locations throughout Miami from April to December of this year. *A City of the People* will feature a wide range of art experiences, screenings, readings, and public programs that explore what it means to exist in, and as, an urban community. Part of the cross-disciplinary, cutting-edge programming of *A City of the People*, the readings of *To Write Miami* will initiate discussion on art's capacity to reimagine civic life.

The full schedule of readings is as follows:

Patricia Engel, April 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Author of *The Veins of the Ocean*, which won the 2017 Dayton Literary Peace Prize and was named a *New York Times* Editors' Choice and a *San Francisco Chronicle* Best Book of the Year; *It's Not Love, It's Just Paris*, which won the International Latino Book Award; and *Vida*, a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Fiction Award and Young Lions Fiction Award. Her short fiction has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *A Public Space*, *The Sun*, *Kenyon Review*, and *Harvard Review*. Her criticism and essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, and *Catapult*. Born to Colombian parents, she earned her MFA at Florida International University and is currently a Visiting Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Miami.

Fabienne Josaphat, May 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Author of *Dancing in the Baron's Shadow*, a debut novel released by Unnamed Press and published in French by Calmann-Levy. Her essay, "Summer is an Empty House," recently made the Notable Essays mentions in *Best American Essays 2016*. Her fiction, non-fiction, and poetry have been featured in *The Master's Review*, *Grist Journal*, *Damselfly*, *Hinchas de Poesia*, *Off the Coast Journal*, and *The Caribbean Writer*, as well as in *Eight Miami Poets*, a Jai-Alai Books poetry anthology. She lives in South Florida and is currently at work on a second novel.

Pedro Medina León and Hernán Vera Álvarez, May 29 at 7:30 p.m. (Event in Spanish)

M . O
. A .
D . . .

Miami Dade College

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pedro Medina León studied Literature at Florida International University and is an award-winning writer, speaker, and editor. He is the author of the acclaimed novel *Varsovia* (Florida Book Award 2017), *Mañana no te veré en Miami*, and *Marginal and Tour: una vuelta por la cultura popular de Miami*, and coeditor of the anthologies *Viaje One Way* and *Miami (Un)plugged*. Medina León is a speaker member of the Florida Humanities Council and co-creator of the *Escribe Aquí* Festival for the Betsy Hotel, which was awarded a grant from the Knight Foundation. In 2008 he created the cultural portal *Suburbano Ediciones* and today suburbano.net, the leading Spanish-language cultural network in the United States.

Hernán Vera Álvarez, sometimes known as "Vera," has published the novel *La librería del mal salvaje*, two books of short stories—*Una extraña felicidad (llamada América)*, and *Grand Nocturno*—and the comic book, *La gente no puede vivir sin problemas!* He is also coeditor of the anthologies *Viaje One Way* and *Miami (Un)plugged*. His work has been featured in magazines and newspapers in the United States and Latin America such as *El Nuevo Herald*, *Meansheets*, *Loft Magazine*, *El Sentinel*, *Sea-Latino*, *Tinta FrescaUS*, *La Nación*, and *Clarín*. Born in Buenos Aires, he lived in the United States for eight years as an illegal immigrant, working in shipyards, discotheques, the kitchen of a nightclub, and in construction. He has taught creative writing at Miami Dade College's Koubek Center.

Legna Rodríguez Iglesias, June 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Born in Camaguey, Cuba, in 1984 **Rodríguez Iglesias** is the author of *Mi novia preferida fue un bulldog francés (My Favorite Girlfriend Is a French Bulldog)* (Alfaguara 2017), and works in a variety of genres, including poetry, short stories, novels, children's books, and theater. She has won a number of prestigious national and international awards, most recently the Paz Prize for Poetry in 2016 for her collection of poems, *Miami Century Fox*.

Les Standiford, July 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Standiford is Founding Director of the Creative Writing Program at Florida International University in Miami and the author of twenty-two books, including a series of thrillers starring hard-luck South Florida building contractor John Deal. In *Presidential Deal* (1998), the First Lady, based loosely on Hillary Clinton, is kidnapped in Miami. (Don't worry folks, it was all made up.) He has also written works of history, including *Last Train to Paradise: Henry Flagler and the Spectacular Rise and Fall of the Railroad that Crossed an Ocean*, now in its 35th printing, and *The Man Who Invented Christmas: How Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol Rescued His Career and Revived our Holiday Spirits*, which was made into a feature film starring Dan Stevens and Christopher Plummer.

Lynne Barrett, August 28 at 7:30 p.m. 7:30 PM

Barrett is the award-winning author of three story collections, most recently *Magpies*, which received the Florida Book Awards gold medal for fiction. Her recent fiction and nonfiction can be found in *New Flash Fiction Review*, *Necessary Fiction*, *Mystery Tribune*, *The Miami Rail*, *The Southern Women's Review*, *River Teeth's Beautiful Things*, *Fort Lauderdale Magazine*, *Flash! Writing the Very Short Story*, and *Just to Watch Them Die: Crime Stories Inspired by the Songs of Johnny Cash*. She's the editor of the forthcoming anthology *Making Good Time: True Stories of How We Do, and Don't, Get Around in South Florida*. A recipient of the Edgar Award for best mystery story, Barrett teaches in the MFA program at Florida International University and is editor of *The Florida Book Review*.

P. Scott Cunningham, September 25 at 7:30 p.m.

P. Scott Cunningham lives in Miami and is the director of O, Miami Poetry Festival and the publisher of Jai-Alai Books. He is the author of *Ya Te Veo* (University of Arkansas Press, 2018), selected by Billy Collins for the Miller Williams Poetry Series. His poems, essays, and translations have appeared in *Harvard Review*, *POETRY*, *The Awl*, *A Public Space*, *RHINO*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Tupelo Quarterly*,

M . O . A . D . . .

Miami Dade College

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monocle, and *The Guardian*. Events and projects of O, Miami have been featured in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post*, NPR's *Morning Edition*, ESPN, and *Time*, and the organization was named by *Fast Company* as one of 51 "brilliant urban ideas that are changing America."

John Dufresne, October 30 at 7:30 p.m.

He is the author of six novels: *Louisiana Power & Light*, *Love Warps the Mind a Little* (both *New York Times*' Notable Books of the Year), *Deep in the Shade of Paradise*, *Requiem, Mass.*, *No Regrets*, *Coyote*, and *I Don't Like Where This Is Going*. He also wrote two short story collections: *The Way That Water Enters Stone* and *Johnny Too Bad*, as well as three chapbooks. He has two books on writing and creativity: *The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction* and *Is Life Like This?: A Guide to Writing Your First Novel in Six Months*. John was a 2012–13 Guggenheim Fellow and teaches in the MFA program at Florida International University in Miami.

To Write Miami is curated by writer and journalist Anjanette Delgado and presented in partnership with the Miami Book Fair.

In April 2018, the Museum of Art and Design, Miami Dade College's flagship museum, reopened with a renewed belief that art and design can change our communities and the world. MOAD offers groundbreaking exhibitions and programs that explore the challenges and opportunities we face locally and globally. Its programming convenes leading artists, designers, and thinkers to address the urgent questions of our time. MOAD strives to be a catalyst for action and a place that empowers people to rethink and remake their city. As the museum of Miami Dade College, MOAD follows its lead in operating throughout the city. Based in Downtown Miami's Historic Freedom Tower, MOAD considers itself a Museum Without Boundaries. Its programming takes place in many neighborhoods, inviting everyone to be a part of the conversation. MOAD's aim is to foster a reimagined Miami, built by and with its citizens.

WHAT: *To Write Miami* Public Programs

WHEN: April 24, at 7:30 p.m. (Patricia Engel)
May 15, at 7:30 p.m. (Fabienne Josaphat)
May 29, at 7:30 p.m. (Pedro Medina León and Hernán Vera Álvarez)
June 26, at 7:30 p.m. (Legna Rodríguez Iglesias)
July 31, at 7:30 p.m. (Les Standiford)
August 28, at 7:30 p.m. (Lynne Barrett)
September 25, at 7:30 p.m. (P. Scott Cunningham)
October 30, at 7:30 p.m. (John Dufresne)

WHERE: Soya e Pomodoro
120 NE 1st Street
Downtown Miami

Museum of Art and Design at Miami Dade College

Museum Hours: Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 1 – 6 p.m., Thursday 1 – 8 p.m.

Museum admission: \$12 adults; \$8 seniors and military; \$5 students (13–17) and college students (with valid ID); free for MOAD members, MDC students, faculty, and staff, and children 12 and under.

Accessibility challenges: please call (305) 237-7710 for details.

M . O
. A .
D . . .

Miami Dade College

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For updates and a full schedule of events, please visit <http://www.mdcmoad.org/>.

Press Contacts: JWI PR—Jessica Wade Pfeffer: 305-804-8424, jessica@jwipr.com; or Juliana Gutierrez: 305-991-4259, juliana@jwipr.com.

MDC Media-Only Contacts: Juan C. Mendieta, MDC Director of Communications: 305-237-7611, jmendiet@mdc.edu; Hesy Fernandez, Director of Media Relations: 305-237-3949, hfernan5@mdc.edu; Sue Arrowsmith, 305-237-3710, sue.arrowsmith@mdc.edu; Allison Horton, 305-237-3359, ahorton2@mdc.edu. or Norma Ardila, 305-237-3607, nardila@mdc.edu.

This and other MDC releases are available on the web at www.mdc.edu.