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### ***Young Poets from Spain Enrich Miami Literary Scene***

O, Miami is proud to welcome young Spanish poets Elena Medel and Alberto Acerete to Miami for two unique literary events.

On Thursday, October 22, O, Miami presents the book release party for *My First Bikini*, the first U.S. publication by Medel, at the historic Vagabond Hotel in the MiMo District of Miami. Published by Jai-Alai Books, *My First Bikini* brings Medel's prize-winning debut collection into English with gorgeous translations by Lizzie Davis. The party features a special performance by the synchronized swimming troupe Verso Performance, led by Monica Lopez de Victoria of the TM Sisters.

On Friday, October 23, Acerete and Medel are the guests of honor at *Escribe Aqui*, a popular literary series created by The Betsy-South Beach Hotel to bridge the cultural divide between Iberoamerican and English-language literary scholarship. This is a great opportunity for Miami audiences to hear the new and exciting poetry being created in Spain.

Medel's and Acerete's participation has been made possible by the Programme for the Internationalisation of Spanish Culture (PICE), under the Mobility grants awarded by the state company Acción Cultural Española (AC/E), which facilitates the presence and collaboration of Spanish artists, professionals or creators in the international activities and programmes of benchmark foreign cultural organisations and institutions, both public and private.

Both programs are presented in collaboration with The Writer's Room at The Betsy. All O, Miami programs are presented with principal support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and with additional support from Miami-Dade County, the City of Miami Beach, and the Schmidt Family Foundation.

For complete event details, visit [omiami.org](http://omiami.org).

**Elena Medel** was born in Córdoba, Spain in 1985. She is the author of *Chatterton* (Visor, 2014), winner of the 2013 Loewe Young Poets Prize, as well as *Tara* (DVD, 2006) *Vacaciones* (El Gaverio, 2004), and *Mi primer bikini* (DVD, 2002), for which she was awarded the Andalucía Joven Prize at the age of sixteen. Along with Alejandra Vanessa, Medel founded and runs La Bella Varsovia, a literary imprint and cultural advocacy organization. *My First Bikini* (Jai-Alai Books, 2015), translated by Lizzie Davis, is her first publication in the United States.

**Alberto Acerete** was born in Zaragoza, Spain in 1987. He is the author of *Yo quiero bailar* (La Bella Varsovia, 2015), *Letters from the War* (2014), and *Last Summer* (2010). His work is included in the anthology *They Were in Their Twenties and They Were Crazy* (La Bella Varsovia, 2011), edited by Luna Miguel.

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