



**CELEBRATE NATIONAL POETRY MONTH & O, MIAMI 2013 AT THE BETSY-SOUTH BEACH:
Featuring Lamppost Readings, Resident Artists, an Illuminated Poetry Exhibition & More**

In honor of National Poetry Month (April 2013) and in partnership with O, Miami, the month long festival that celebrates poetry throughout Miami Dade County, **The Betsy South Beach** has a full slate of events, promotions and interactive activities on tap. As host hotel for O, Miami, The Betsy provides accommodation for out of town poets in its Writer's Room and in hotel rooms; as well as presenting public readings, salons, parties and the annual Poetry Broadside Exhibition.

The Betsy **Writer's Room**, created as part of the hotel's commitment to cultivating arts and literature programs, funded in part by a Knight Arts Challenge Grant *to create a special place on South Beach that inspires writers to do their best work*, celebrates its first anniversary in April. Six poets will stay in the room during April 2013 as The Betsy works with O, Miami to champion the power of words including a residency by Inaugural poet **Richard Blanco**, who read his poem, "One Today" at President Obama's Inauguration in January.

On Monday, April 1st, the literary month kicks off with a series of events, if not poetic in nature, than poetic in spirit, featuring ethics pioneer and author Dov Seidman, who will make special presentations off-property as part of Betsy's robust community outreach efforts presented in collaboration with leadership from Florida International University and the Miami Dade Public Schools. Seidman is the author of *HOW: Why HOW We Do Anything Means Everything*; events at FIU are free and open to the public.

Also debuting on April 1, **Lamppost Readings (a.k.a. the stoop poetry project)**. Curated by O, Miami founder, Scott Cunningham, the event will feature poets each evening at **5 PM** on the Northeast Corner of the Betsy Terrace to read a poem of their own as well as one from a poet who has inspired their creative work. Readings will be photographed and recorded and will become part of a digital archive, accessible on line. To become a featured reader, contact info@omiami.org

On Thursday, April 4 and **Sunday, April 14th** at **7 PM** in BBar, Betsy will host '**Open Mic**' poetry, encouraging poets from all walks of life to read their work in the presence of peers and become 'an official' part of the vibrant regional writing community. O, Miami founder Scott Cunningham will host the April 4th event. To sign up as a reader, contact info@omiami.org, or just show up and sign up to read (first come first served).

On Tuesday, April 16 at 7 PM in Betsy's event space, B Bar a collaborative reading and conversation: *Sylvia Plath and Tradition: 50 Years and Counting* will pair Miami's resident poet **Campbell McGrath** with poet **Catherine Bowman** from Indiana University. Ms. Bowman will stay in the Writer's Room from April 15 to 19. A 'Betsy Salon' on **Monday, April 18th** at **10 AM** at BLT Steak with Ms. Bowman will be co-hosted by FIU's Dr. James Sutton as part of an emerging partnership with the Department of English at FIU. Both events are free and open to the public; however salon seating is limited. RSVPs at artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com for both events.

Also on **Tuesday, April 16**, Betsy's annual Poetry Broadside Exhibition opens with a light box display titled *Manuscripts: the illuminated broadsides exhibition*. Fragments of poems from both contemporary poets who will be in residence at The Betsy during O, Miami and internationally renowned poets with a link to Florida, past and present, will be interpreted by graphic artists and projected on light boxes. Miami artist **Andrew Reid** is curator and principal designer for the project.

From **Thursday, April 25 to Saturday, 27**, the Betsy will be hosting a dozen poets in residence, in support of O, Miami's efforts to create a three day intensive poetry festival on the beach.

In addition to Richard Blanco, other visiting poets include Chase Twitchell, Achy Obas, Stacey Waite, Jose Angel Leyva, Jean Portante, Delana Demeron, Eduardo Corral, Kevin Young, Victor Rodriguez Nunez, Frank Baez, and Megan Amram. Readings will be held in B Bar throughout the festival weekend. For more information see www.omiami.org.

What better way to celebrate all of this literary splendor than with a reading and a party? On **Saturday, April 27**, O, Miami will present a Global Reading on Roofdeck featuring international visiting poets. The Betsy will then sponsor its third annual **Poetry Partay** on Roofdeck following the reading, with food provided courtesy of culinary partner, BLT Steak at the Betsy. RSVP to attend this event to artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com

About The Betsy

The Betsy South Beach is a boutique hotel located on world renowned Ocean Drive that embraces culture, arts and philanthropy through a wide range of events with ongoing events under the auspices of a Philanthropy, Arts and Culture Program, with a very special focus on poetry and literature. Each room at the hotel has a small library of poetry and other books, and a poetry bookmark is placed on each guest's pillow every night. Over the past three years, the hotel has become a catalyst for energized discourse, innovative thinking, and charity, and has worked with over 200 nonprofit partners in the region. The Betsy South Beach is a 2013 Knight Foundation Arts Challenge Grant recipient for its Writers Room project. The hotel is located at **1440 Ocean Drive**, Miami Beach. Telephone: [305-760-6902](tel:305-760-6902).

About University of Wynwood

Founded in 2008, the UNIVERSITY OF WYNWOOD curates events and projects that advance contemporary literature in Miami, Florida. A registered 501(c)3 non-profit corporation in the state of Florida, UW produces the biennial poetry festival "O, Miami", an on-going visiting poet series, a literary magazine, and other projects designed to build community through literature. For more, visit <http://www.universityofwynwood.org/>.

Media contact:

Karen Barofsky/Ashley Abed
Brustman Carrino Public Relations
bcpr@brustmancarrinopr.com
305-573-0658