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BUILDING BRIDGES: SPANISH & ENGLISH LANGUAGE WRITERS IN CONVERSATION

The next generation of Spanish authors now on tour in the US

BIOS

SPANISH LANGUAGE WRITERS



Javier Montes (Madrid, 1976) is a writer, translator and art critic. He works together regularly with *Revista de Libros* (for which he coordinates the section of Art and Aesthetics), *ABC Cultural*, *Revistas de Occidente*, *Claves de Razón Práctica*, *Letra Internacional*, *Arquitectura Viva* and “*El Viajero*” from *El País*. He has been a professor of art history at el Colegio Español de Malabo (Guinea Ecuatorial) and has published critic editions and translations of the works of Rachid O., Dickens, Apollinaire and Shakespeare. In 2010 he was selected as one of The Best of Young Spanish Language Novelists by the *Granta Magazine*



Alberto Olmos (Segovia, 1975) is a writer, critic and Spanish journalist. He received his degree in Journalism from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and has worked with such newspapers as *El Mundo*, *Público*, and other national and international news networks. In 2006 He won the X edition of the Premios Arte Joven de la Comunidad de Madrid with his piece “*Trenes hacia Tokio*.” His other works include *A bordo de naufragi* and *Así de loco te puedes volver*. In 2010 he was selected as one of The Best of Young Spanish Language Novelists by the *Granta Magazine*



Andrés Barba (Madrid, 1975) received his degree in Hispanic Philology at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and has worked as a professor at Bowdoin College in Maine. Barba has published various works in many languages and in 2006 he received the Torrente Ballester Award for his work *Versiones de Teresa*. He has also worked in journalism with various media networks including *El País*. In 2010 he was selected as one of The Best of Young Spanish Language Novelists by *Granta*.



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Antonio Ortuño, (Guadalajara, 1976) a son of Spanish immigrants was, in order, a distinguished student, a school dropout, a worker at a special effects business and a private tutor. Since 1999, he has worked at the newspaper group *Milenio*, where he has been a reporter, editor and most recently Head of Editing for the paper *Público-Milenio*. His first novel, *El buscador de cabezas* (2006), received unanimous praise from critics of his home country and was selected by the newspaper *Reforma* as the best first book of the year. In 2006, his book of short stories *El jardín japonés*, came out in Spain. He is a permanent collaborator of publications such as *Letras Libres*, *La tempestad* and *Cuaderno Salmón*. In 2010 he was selected as one of The Best of Young Spanish Language Novelists by the Granta Magazine



Carlos Labbé (Santiago, 1977) is a writer and literary critic. He received his degree in literature with a thesis on Juan Carlos Onetti. He later went on to receive his masters in the same field. He has worked in critiquing literature in the magazine *Sobrelibros* and since 2008 he has directed, as founder and co-editor, the *Sangría Editora*- a publishing house that centers itself in contemporary fiction. In addition to working in literature, Labbé was also in the pop group *Ex Fiesta* and the band *Tornasólidos*. He has also done writing for film including *Malta con huevo* in which he won the Pedro Sienna Award in 2008. In 2010 he was selected as one of The Best of Young Spanish Language Novelists by the Granta Magazine



Oliverio Coelho (Buenos Aires, 1977) has previously published the novels *Tierra de vigilia* (2000), *Los invertebrables* (2003), *Borneo* (2004), *Promesas naturales* (2006) and *Ida* (2008) as well as the book of short stories *Parte doméstico* (Emecé, 2009). He has been invited to writers' residencies in Mexico and South Korea, the latter stay resulting in *Ji-do* (2009) an anthology of contemporary Korean fiction. He writes regularly for the cultural supplements of the newspapers *La Nación*, *El País*, *Clarín* and *Perfil*, and is often named as one of the best young authors writing in Latin America today. His last novel is *A Man Called Lobo* (2011). In 2010 he was selected as one of The Best of Young Spanish Language Novelists by the Granta Magazine



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Federico Falco is an Argentinean writer born in 1977^[1]. He holds a degree in communications and is a MFA candidate in Creative Writing in Spanish at New York University. He currently lives in New York City. In 2004 he was given the Young Writers Award by the Spanish Cultural Centre of Córdoba, Argentina. In 2005, he received a grant for improvement from the National Trust for the Arts of Argentina, and in 2009, a scholarship from New York University and Banco Santander Foundation. In 2010 Federico Falco has been selected as one of The Best of Young Spanish Language Novelists by the Granta Magazine



Carlos Yushimito del Valle (born 1977 in Lima, Peru) is a Peruvian writer of Japanese descent. Carlos Yushimito del Valle studied Latin American Literature at National University of San Marcos where he graduated in 2002. Two years later he published his first short stories collection, *El Mago* (The Magician), and in 2006 his second book, *Las Islas* (Islands), warmly received by the critics. Since then, his stories have appeared in several anthologies of short stories in Peru and abroad. In 2010 he was considered by the British literary magazine Granta as one of the twenty two best writers in Spanish Language under 35 years^{[1][2][3][4][5][6]} along with authors like Santiago Roncagliolo, Andres Neuman and Alejandro Zambra. He has been invited, among others, to Quito Book Fair and Miami International Book Fair, to the First International Festival of Young Writers in La Habana, Cuba and to several U.S. Universities, including New York University, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), San Jose State University, California, and University of California, Berkeley. His stories, set in favelas and sertões, are inspired by Brazil, though he has never been there. He moved to the United States in 2008, to study a MA in Hispanic Studies at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, and later to Providence, Rhode Island, where is currently pursuing his PhD at Brown University. His work has been partially translated into English, French and Portuguese. In 2010 he was selected as one of The Best of Young Spanish Language Novelists by the Granta Magazine



Rodrigo Hasbun (Bolivia, 1981) had his first story published in *Nuevo Milenio* in 2000 when he was only 19-years-old. He later won Bolivia's National Story Prize in 2002 and has since garnered numerous other accolades. Selected to represent his native Bolivia during Bogota 39, which brought 39 writers under the age of 39 together, Hasbun has demonstrated his vocal presence both on the page and in the literary community at large. His vaguely self-referential short story collection



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Cinco is set in a nameless city distinguished by its potential to be anywhere and nowhere, a backdrop that ultimately emphasizes the psychological interiors of his characters. In 2010 he was selected as one of The Best of Young Spanish Language Novelists by the Granta Magazine



Mercedes Monmany (Barcelona, 1957) is a literary critic and essayist who specializes in contemporary literature. She also worked as an editor, publications advisor, and a literary critic for many major newspapers and magazines. She is the editor of "La Rama Dorada" - a collection of poems and literary essays, and the editorial *Huerga y Fierro*. She also has translated the works of various authors such as Attilio Bertucci and Francis Ponge. Currently, she is a judge for various literary awards such as the Café Gijón's Narrative Award as well as the Narrativa Innovadora Lengua de Trapo Award.



Valerie Miles is the Publishing director of Duomo Ediciones and, together with Aurelio Major, one of the founding co-editors of *Granta en español*. She has written for *La Vanguardia*, *The Paris Review* and *ADBC* and is a professor on the postgraduate program for literary translation at the Pompeu i Fabra University, Barcelona.



Aurelio Major is a poet, translator and editor. He was editorial director of Octavio Paz's publisher Editorial Vuelta, and of Tusquets Editores, among other publishers in Mexico and Barcelona, and is currently editorial consultant for several European publishing groups. He has edited in Spanish the works of Basil Bunting, George Oppen, and translated Eliot Weinberger and Susan Sontag. His edition, with an introduction, to Edmund Wilson's *Selected Critical Writings* was published in 2008. He is co-founding editor, with Valerie Miles, of the Spanish edition of *Granta* magazine.



Núria Vilanova (Barcelona) joined American University in 2009. She has devoted her research to Latin American Literature and Cultural Studies, in particular the Andean region and the Mexican-US border. Her main interests are the impact of migration on cultural production and narratives of violence and poverty. She has mainly worked with literary texts and cinema. After



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completing her PhD at Liverpool University (1993), Vilanova lived and worked in several Latin American countries for over fifteen years. She has also taught in Europe. She is the author of *The Impact of Social Change upon Peruvian Literature (1970-1990)* (Edwin Mellen, 1998) and *Border Texts: Writing Fiction from Northern Mexico* (San Diego University Press, 2007). She is working on a third book about Bolivian cinema: culture and revolution.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE WRITERS/EDITORS



John Freeman is an award-winning writer and book critic who has written for numerous publications, including *The New York Times Book Review*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Guardian*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. Freeman won the 2007 James Patterson PageTurner Award. He is the editor-in-chief of *Granta* and lives in New York City.



Francine Prose (New York, 1947) is an American writer. Since March 2007 she has been the president of PEN American Center. She graduated from Radcliffe College in 1968 and received a Guggenheim fellowship in 1991. She sat on the board of judges for the PEN/Newman's Own Award. Her novel, *Blue Angel*, a satire about sexual harassment on college campuses, was a finalist for the National Book Award. She is a Visiting Professor of Literature at Bard College. One of her novels, *Household Saints*, was adapted for a movie by Nancy Savoca. Another, *The Glorious Ones*, has been adapted into a musical with the same title by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty. It ran at the Mitzi E. Newhouse Theatre at Lincoln Center in New York City in the fall of 2007.



Barbara Epler graduated from Harvard in 1984, and began working at New Directions that same year. She became the editor-in-chief in 1996 and vice-president in 2004. She has also been a contributing editor for *Grand Street* and helped judge the PEN/Nelson Algren Fiction Award, the NYU Emerging Writers Award, and the PEN Translation Fund Grants.



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Jonathan Galassi (Seattle, 1949) is the President and Publisher of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, one of the eight major publishers in New York. He began his publishing career at Houghton Mifflin in Boston, moved to Random House in New York, and finally, to Farrar, Straus & Giroux. He joined FSG as executive editor in 1985, and two years later, he was named editor-in-chief, and is now President and Publisher. Galassi is also a translator of poetry and a poet himself. His honors as a poet include a 1989 Guggenheim Fellowship and his activities include having been poetry editor for *The Paris Review* for ten years, and being an honorary chairman of the Academy of American Poets. He has published poems in literary journals and magazines including *Threepenny Review*, *The New Yorker*, *The Nation* and the Poetry Foundation website. Galassi graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy where he became interested in poetry, writing and literature, and from Harvard College in 1971.



Peter M. Mayer (1936) is an American independent publisher who is president of The Overlook Press/Peter Mayer Publishers, Inc., a Woodstock, New York - based publishing company he founded with his father in 1971. At the time of Overlook's founding, Mayer was head of Avon Books, a large New York - based paperback publisher. From 1978 to 1996, Mayer was CEO of Penguin Books, where he introduced a flexible style in editorial, marketing, and production. Previously, while at Avon Books, Mayer successfully launched the trade paperback as a viable alternative to mass market and hardcover formats. Recently, Mayer financially revived, both Ardis, a publisher of Russian literature in English, and Duckworth an independent publishing independent publishing house in the U.K.



Amy Hundley, a native of Chicago, is subsidiary rights director and editor at Grove/Atlantic, where she has worked in various editorial capacities for fifteen years. As a fiction editor, she has worked with authors such as Jim Harrison, Anne Enright (Winner of the Man Booker Prize), Achmat Dangor (Man Booker Prize finalist). She also works with many of Grove's authors in translation, including Pascal Mercier, Catherine Millet, Kenzaburo Oe, and Jose Manuel Prieto. She has attended international publishing fellowships sponsored by the French Ministry of Culture and French-American Foundation; the Frankfurt Book Fair; the Polish Book Institute; and the Jerusalem Book Fair. Born and raised in Chicago, Amy Hundley attended Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.