

## THE ILLUSTRATORS' EXHIBITION

**More than 15 thousand works studied by a prestigious international jury,  
a selection of 80 illustrators from all over the world for the exhibition  
at the heart of the Bologna Children's Book Fair**

**The personal exhibitions of Ludwig Volbeda and Manuel Marsol**

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**3.053 illustrators from 72 countries and a total of 15.265 works**, viewed by a jury composed of five international figures from the world of illustration and children's publishing. **77 works were selected from 25 countries and regions**: these are the numbers from the 2018 edition of the **Illustrators' Exhibition**, which will be held at the heart of the Service Centre at BolognaFiere.

A unique venue where stories, cultures, styles and traditions from every part of the world converge, brought together by the capacity to narrate our times and present the future trends in illustration for children and youngsters. For over fifty years the Illustrators' Exhibition at the Bologna Children's Book Fair has been consolidating its role as an international showcase for the latest trends in the field of children's illustration, a venue at which established artists and debut illustrators can meet for an event that is eagerly awaited by all those in the publishing sector.

The esteemed international jury that came together in January to select the artists for the exhibition was composed of: **William Grill**, British illustrator and the second youngest ever winner of the Kate Greenaway Award in 2014 and winner of the Bologna Ragazzi Award for Non-Fiction in 2017, **Allyn Johnston**, publisher and vice-president of the Californian, Beach Lane Books, **Anastasia Arkhipova**, teacher at the Stroganov Academy of Fine Arts in Moscow and a multi-award winning Russian illustrator, **Peggy Espinosa**, editor, publisher and illustrator, from the Mexican publishing house Petra Ediciones and **Bernd Mölck-Tassel**, German illustrator and teacher at the University of Applied Science in Hamburg (HAW).

Following the extraordinary success of last year's edition, this year too the Exhibition will be continuing with the **unconventional display format**: the illustrations will, in fact, be laid on horizontal tables, around which it will be possible for visitors to walk, observing the works from the same point of view as the jurors as they went about their work. From the Bologna Exhibition Centre the Illustrators' Exhibition will begin a **world tour** that will take it, over two years, to the cultural capitals of many different countries, beginning with **Japan and China**, to become a genuine international showcase for the selected artists.

But the opportunities offered by the Illustrators' Exhibition go well beyond the selection phase: the **Illustrators Annual**, published by Corraini Edizioni and produced also thanks to the collaboration with Fedrigoni, will be distributed all around the world in Italian, English, Japanese, American and Chinese versions. The cover of the 2018 catalogue will be created by Ludwig Volbeda, the Dutch winner of the Bratislava Biennial Grand Prix in 2017 and the subject of a personal exhibition at the service centre.

## THE EXHIBITIONS OF LUDWIG VOLBEDA AND MANUEL MARSOL

Alongside the Illustrators' Exhibition, the personal exhibitions of **Manuel Marsol**, winner of the Bologna Children's Book Fair – Fundación SM International Illustration Award 2017 and **Ludwig Volbeda**, the winner of the Grand Prix at the Bratislava Biennial 2017, taking centre stage at the Service Centre.

### MANUEL MARSOL

The original illustrations from **Manuel Marsol's "The Legend of Don Martín"** tell a story inspired by tales from Spanish legend. The book recounts the tale of the mysterious disappearance of Don Martín, a medieval knight that left one day to ride his horse never to return again. His disappearance led to many theories about what might have happened to him, theories from which a legend grew that has been handed down through the centuries.

Manuel Marsol (1984, Madrid), graduated in Audio-visual and Advertising Communication. He worked as an advertising creative from 2009 to 2012, when he chose to focus on what he truly enjoyed doing: drawing. In Barcelona he specialized in illustration for children at the EINA. Since 2014 his work has been selected each year by the various juries of the Bologna Children's Book Fair Illustrators' Exhibition.

Marsol has illustrated numerous books such as: Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* (Astro Rey, 2015); *The Brazilian Cat* by Arthur Conan Doyle (Ekaré, 2016) and *Venus in Furs* by Leopold von Sacher-Masoch (Sexto Piso, 2016). His most recent book *A Minha Cidade: Madrid* (Pato Lógico, 2017) consists of a map and was published in Portugal. In 2017 he taught on the course One Year Illustration organised by the European Design Institute in Madrid.

IN 2014 he won the fourth edition of the Catalogo Iberoamericano.

### LUDWING VOLBEDA

Among the protagonists of 2018 is illustrator **Ludwig Volbeda** from Holland. As the winner of the **Grand Prix at the Bratislava Biennial 2017**, and in keeping with the tradition in alternate years of hosting the winners of the leading international awards for children's illustration, Volbeda was invited to create the cover for this year's Illustrators' Annual, the catalogue that accompanies the Illustrators' Exhibition. The personal exhibition of Volbeda's work will reveal the talent of this artist. On display will be 16 works including some brand new illustrations created especially for the exhibition.

Ludwig Volbeda studied illustration at the Sint Joost di Breda Academy of Art. He loves filling every millimetre of his walls and his books with tiny notes, drawings, sketches and cartoons. He enjoys exploring every variety of technique and form of narration and tries to begin a new project or book without a rigid approach. He playfully inserts hidden codes and scripts into his complex and accurately detailed illustrations.

His main sources of inspiration are literature, history, landscapes, photography, poetry, conversations from daily life and the cartoon strip, the field of aesthetic experimentation with its framing and rhythm of the images in sequence.

In 2016 Volbeda published his first illustrated children's book *Hoe Tortot zijn visserhart verloo*, which tells an absurd the story about war and is full of drawings that transform through different formats, from cartoons like panels to false musical scores. His second illustrated children's book, but first work in colour, won him the Grand Prix at the Bratislava Biennial 2017, the book *De Vogels*, was published to accompany an exhibition of twentieth century sculpture.