

57th BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR
30 March – 2 April 2020

THE WORLD OF ILLUSTRATION AT BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

**Illustrators Exhibition, Illustrators Survival Corner,
personal shows by Hassan Mousavi, Rasa Jančiauskaitė and Sarah Mazzetti**

Illustrators for Gianni Rodari: Italian Excellence

For more than 50 years, illustration has been a key feature of Bologna Children's Book Fair, providing an overview of creative trends and allowing new talents to emerge. Not only a showcase of creative excellence, the trade show is also the place where illustrators find support and professional opportunities through contacts with children's book and content publishers.

THE ILLUSTRATORS EXHIBITION AND ITS OPPORTUNITIES

The jewel in the crown of the Children's Book Fair, the Illustrators Exhibition will this year present the best in international illustration with the work of **76 artists from 24 countries** selected by an international jury of experts who gathered in Bologna to assess the work of the **2,574 submissions from candidates from 66 countries for a total of some 12,870 original illustrations**. The Jury was made up of: **Valérie Cussagnet** (France), founder of the children's book publishing house Les Fourmis Rouges and Associate Professor at Clermont-Ferrand University; **Enrico Fornaroli** (Italy), Director of Bologna's Fine Art Academy, holder of the Chair of Pedagogy and Art Teaching; artist **Lorenzo Mattotti** (Italy/France); **Cathy Omedillas** (United Kingdom), Creative Director and founder of Studio Anorak, editor of the magazines *Happy Mags for Kids*, *Anorak* and *DOT*; **Machiko Wakatsuki** (Japan), President and Manager of Bronze Publishing, Tokyo.

The Jury will discuss its selection on Wednesday, 1 April at 11 a.m. at the **Illustrators Café**.

Once again the **Illustrators Exhibition** will have the **unconventional layout** that has proved so successful in the last three years, with the artwork laid out on horizontal supports, in the same way that the Jury viewed the submissions.

Bologna Children's Book Fair in partnership with JBBY - Japanese Board on Books for Young People, the Itabashi Art Museum, Tokyo and Palaexpo di Roma, have organized **Beyond Sight / Oltre la vista / Miru o koete**, a project **enabling the unsighted to enjoy some of the Illustrators Exhibition**. The work of 3 of the artists selected has been "translated" in simplified form onto tactile wooden plates by Michela Tonelli and Antonella Veracchi of PalaExpo Roma with the help of blind co-workers at the Palazzo delle Esposizioni, making the artwork easily 'readable' for the non-sighted. The tactile boards will be accompanied by braille descriptions of the legends.

The project will be presented during BCBF and after that at Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome, and in Japan during the 2020 Paralympics.

As the international illustration showcase par excellence for the well-known figures and emerging artists participating each year, and so the must-see exhibition for publishing specialists, selection for the Bologna Exhibition is a great visibility opportunity. After the conclusion of the trade show, the Illustrators Exhibition goes on a **world tour** for the following two years that will take it to key venues in countries like Japan, China, and South Korea.

The Exhibition catalogue, the **Illustrators Annual**, is published in English and Italian by Corraini, which is also in charge of its international distribution to specialist bookstores. The Annual is also published in

Japan by JBBY - Japanese Board on Books for Young People, in the United States by Chronicle Books, and in China by Dandelion Picture Book House. A Korean version will soon be released. The 2020 cover illustration is by the Iranian illustrator **Hassan Mousavi**, winner of the 2019 BIB – Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava Grand Prix.

But opportunities for the selected illustrators don't stop there. All under-35 participants are automatically candidates for the **International Award for Illustration - Bologna Children's Book Fair – Fundación SM**, consisting of a \$15,000 grant allowing the winner to work on the publication of a picturebook, and a personal show at the next edition of the Fair. The BCBF - Fundación SM Award celebrates its 10th year this year and **the Fair will give it special focus, showing a series of giant reproductions of the works of the 10 winners down the years.**

In addition, a young illustrator selected for the Illustrators Exhibition will be chosen to create **BCBF's Visual Identity for 2021**, in partnership with the Chialab design studio.

Finally, young emerging illustrators will be candidates for the **ARS IN FABULA – Grant Award**, a scholarship created in 2012 by the School of Illustration, Ars in Fabula, and Bologna Children's Book Fair, and given each year to an unpublished artist under 30 years of age chosen for the Illustrators Exhibition.

PERSONAL EXHIBITIONS OF HASSAN MOUSAVI, RASA JANČIAUSKAITĖ AND SARAH MAZZETTI

There will be three solo exhibitions adjacent to the Illustrators Exhibition in the Central Services area. The first is of the artist of this year's Illustrators Annual, winner of the BIB – Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava Grand Prix, **Hassan Mousavi**, who will be showing a selection of work, much of which unpublished.

The second exhibition, of Italian illustrator **Sarah Mazzetti**, winner of the 10th International Award for Illustration - Bologna Children's Book Fair – Fundación SM, is entitled **Lucilla**. The original illustrations on display are part of the book published by SM to mark the trade show and are an original adaptation of the story of Tom Thumb and focusing on the theme of poverty. The artist will discuss her work at the **Illustrators Café** on Monday, 30 March at 4 p.m.

Last but not least is the solo show of **Rasa Jančiauskaitė**, co-creator of the "BCBF visual identity workshop", a project started in 2017 when the Book Fair decided to entrust a young artist from among the many talented illustrators in the Illustrators Exhibition with the job of building the visual universe of the next BCBF, under the creative guidance of the Chialab design studio. The visual identity of this 2020 edition was developed by the Lithuanian illustrator and graphic designer Rasa Jančiauskaitė, who took her cue from the rock drawings of the Lascaux, Tanum, and Val Camonica caves. Her illustrations take us back to the beginnings of graphic representation, to cave dwellings and the primordial, their extreme simplicity also conveying purity, precision and delicacy. They express the "egg-idea", in other words, that everyone brings something unique to BCBF. That something is represented by Rasa with direct icastic forms, devoid of colour yet with a gentle ironic touch direct. Rasa Jančiauskaitė and Chialab will tell their 'behind the scenes' story of the BCBF2020 Visual Identity Workshop at the **Illustrators Survival Corner**.

ILLUSTRATORS FOR GIANNI RODARI: ITALIAN EXCELLENCE

Bologna Children's Book Fair will mark the centennial of the birth of Gianni Rodari with an exhibition of his best creative work. Born on 23 October 1920, Rodari was the first Italian author to win the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Award (in 1970) and one of the 20th century's most innovative and influential children's authors.

Re-printed year after year, Rodari's work has been illustrated down the years by many great artists. This, together with the 2015 exhibition Italian Excellence, shown to wide acclaim in more than 10 countries, was the cue for Bologna Children's Book Fair, the Emilia-Romagna Region and the Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco, in partnership with the Italian Consulate General, to develop the exhibition **Illustrators for Gianni Rodari: Italian Excellence. Curated by the Giannino Stoppani Cooperative/Accademia Drosselmeier**, the show previewed in Portland, is currently in San

Francisco, and will be in the Mall of the BCBF during the fair. The works of the 21 artists who over the years have given their own interpretation of Rodari's writing also represent a sort of time line of Italian illustration that ranges from the greats like Bruno Munari and Emanuele Luzzati down to contemporary giants like Beatrice Alemagna and Olimpia Zagnoli.

The artists included are: Bruno Munari, Emanuele Luzzati, Altan, Beatrice Alemagna, Gaia Stella, Olimpia Zagnoli, Manuele Fior, Alessandro Sanna, Valerio Vitali, Simona Mulazzani, Chiara Armellini, Anna Laura Cantone, Fulvio Testa, Maria Chiara Di Giorgio, Giulia Orecchia, Nicoletta Costa, Federico Maggioni, Francesca Ghermandi, Pia Valentinis, Elenia Beretta and Vittoria Facchini.

After the conclusion of the Book Fair, the exhibition will go to the **Turin Book Show**, after which it will begin an **extensive international tour** taking it to Prague, Berlin, Moscow, Melbourne, Auckland and many other venues soon to be announced.

On Monday, 30 March at 11.30 a.m. the Illustrators Café will host a **large meeting to mark the Rodari exhibition**. Many of the illustrators involved will be on hand to tell us how they interpreted this great author.

THE EXHIBITION OF SHARJAH GUEST COUNTRY OF HONOUR

Sharjah, this year's Guest Country of Honour, will stage an exhibition in the Central Services area featuring **19 children's book illustrators** representing the best Arab illustration in the sector. In previous months the artists had attended preparatory workshops organized by the Sharjah Book Authority (SBA), and led by world famous artists such as: Nasser Nasrallah (UAE), Salah El Murr (Sudan), Francesca Vinaga (Italy), Walid Taher (Egypt), Andrea Peklar (Slovenia), Estelle Meza (Mexico) and Hani Salah (Egypt).

THE FINALISTS OF THE SILENT BOOK CONTEST – GIANNI DE CONNO AWARD

On display will be the works of the finalists of the Silent Book Contest - Gianni De Conno Award – promoted by the town of Mulazzo, and the Montereleggio Paese dei Librai Association, member of I.O.B. - International Organization of Book Towns Italia, with the contribution of Carthusia Edizioni, the assistance of Bologna Children's Book Fair, and the patronage of IBBY Italia and the Book and Reading Centre (MiBACT). Chosen by an international jury, the exhibition will be held in the Bologna Children's Book Fair Mall. Conceived for 'wordless books', the illustrations rely exclusively on the evocative power of image to tell stories that reach beyond all linguistic, cultural or age barriers.

THE CAFÉ AND THE ILLUSTRATORS WALL

From the outset, the Illustrators Café has offered opportunities to meet with the BCBF and Illustrators Exhibition juries, discuss the state of the art of illustration in the world, listen to presentations by the winners of the Bologna Ragazzi Awards, meet many specialist players in the children's publishing world, and be present at the announcement of important international prizes. Close by is the famous "Illustrators Wall", a key feature for artists coming to the Fair: dozens and dozens of blank papered wall space that day after day during the Children's Book Fair gets covered with drawings, business cards, art projects, contact data and messages, becoming a real illustration showcase that has often led to interesting meetings and professional opportunities.

THE ILLUSTRATORS SURVIVAL CORNER AND THE EXHIBITION SHANGHAI IMPRESSIONS

The Illustrators Survival Corner has now become BCBF's hotspot for young illustrators wanting to broaden their creative horizons and meet international publishers and sector professionals. Conceived by BCBF in partnership with **Mimaster Illustrazione**, the programme format has been so successful that it has been replicated with equal success in Shanghai and Moscow. More than 100 meetings and events will be laid on. They include masterclasses, workshops and portfolio reviews. **In 2019, more than 6 thousand illustrators took part in the meetings** dedicated to the various aspects of the profession. Participants were able to gauge their own skills in the context of picturebooks, self-publishing ventures, game design, contracts and interviews with art directors and publishing professionals. Guests at the 2020 Survival

Corner will include the **jury members of the Illustrators Exhibition**: comics artist, illustrator and artist Lorenzo Mattotti, French publisher Valérie Cussagnet (Les Fourmis Rouges), Japanese publisher Wakatsuki Machiko (Bronze Publishing), the founder and director of British magazines *Anorak* and *Dot*, Cathy Olmedillas, and Enrico Fornaroli, Director of Bologna's Fine Arts Academy.

Other international guests will include: **Mariko Tamaki, Gilles Bachelet, Tassies, Chiu Cheng-Tsung, Orith Kolodny, Gérard Lo Monaco, Pavle Učakar, Antoine Dole, Diane Le Feyer, and Aria Ungerer.**

The Survival Corner will also host the exhibition **Shanghai Impressions**, a project developed by the China Shanghai International Children's Book Fair, a venue that is part of the BCBF Event Network. Following on from last year and the display by three Spanish illustrators, this year will see an exhibition called **Re-Seedency** showing the work produced by three Norwegian illustrators during an artist's residency in Shanghai. The central theme of the work was growth and nature in a huge metropolis – hence the reference in the title to "seed".

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