

Bologna Children's Book Fair: new features for 2021 presented at the Frankfurt Book Fair

BCBF 2021 FALL COLLECTION: three international Round Tables – poetry for young readers, the very latest non-fiction books, and the growing comics and graphic-novel market

The 2021 BolognaRagazzi Award: poetry is the new special category

The new features of the Illustrators Exhibition; the revamped Global Rights Exchange platform; the Aldus Up project to relaunch book fairs

Bologna Children's Book Fair displayed all its international creativity at the Frankfurt Book Fair - this year a digital event on account of the Covid-19 pandemic – presenting three exclusive online meetings and previews of important novelties for the 2021 edition.

The "BCBF 2021 Fall Collection" included three **international panel discussions** on three key themes of the upcoming fair. Broadcast during the Frankfurt Book Fair and available on its digital programme, these three round tables are accessible to the general public and will later be visible also on BCBF TV, the video channel on the Bologna Children's Book Fair website.

The **Poetry Panel: The Special Category of the 2021 BolognaRagazzi Award – A Contemporary Child's Garden of Verses** was held on 14 October. Poetry is the new special category of the BolognaRagazzi Award. Next year marks the 700th anniversary of the death of Dante Alighieri and BCBF turns the spotlight on an increasingly popular literary genre also in the world of children's books. Short, even very short, profound, thoughtful, hilarious, satirical and critical, poetry is an art form, a means of conveying thought and communicating that resonates with curious young minds, eager to discover the world around them but especially, in search of authentic meaning. The discussants were international poetry experts: Maria José Ferrada, Chilean journalist, writer and poetess; Arianna Squilloni, CEO of the Spanish publishers A buen paso, and Beatrice Masini, Editor in Chief at Bompiani (Giunti Editore); acting as moderator was Denis Beznosov, Deputy Head of Moscow's Russian State Children's Library, and a writer and poet for an adult public.

Link to the event: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHkQsRCSy_E&feature=youtu.be

The Round Table **NON-FICTION: The Other Side of Children's Books – Knowledge in-between the Lines and the Pictures** took place on 15 October. Non-Fiction is the subject of a large exhibition on a major phenomenon that has seen enormous investment by publishers around the world over the last 10 years. Curated by the University of Bologna in partnership with BCBF, the Exhibition presents a series of splendid learning picturebooks on subjects ranging from physics, geography, biology, and man through to languages, numbers, technology and philosophy. The new non-fiction picturebook is often large format, sumptuously illustrated and graphically innovative – a volume whose aesthetic excellence is on a par with the knowledge it conveys. Taking part were André Letria, illustrator and editor at the independent Portuguese publishing house Pato Lógico; the much acclaimed Ukrainian authors and illustrators, Romana Romanyshyn and Andriy Lesiv; and Ilaria Dindelli, a PhD Student at Bologna University, under the moderation of Grazia Gotti, a children's literature expert, author and co-founder of Bologna's Cooperativa Giannino Stoppioni and Accademia Drosselmeier.

Link to the event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDXnjbIXV5M&feature=youtu.be>

The third and last panel **COMICS: A New Golden Age - More and More Early to Young-Adult Readers Are Choosing Comics** was held on 16 October. Comics and graphic novels are a major new feature of BCBF. Launched for the 2020 Book Fair in video format, the new area dedicated to this genre will become a reality at the 2021 BCBF with the Comics Corner in Hall 30. The BolognaRagazzi Comics Award will be accompanied by a series of meetings with international players from a publishing sector currently enjoying extraordinary success throughout the world, pushing the quality of production ever higher. Stories told mainly with pictures are loved by readers of all ages. The demand is for ever longer stories, just as was the case for novels a long time ago. The panel discussants were Emanuele di Giorgi, CEO of Tunué, one of Italy's major comics publishers; Camille Jourdy, the French author and illustrator, winner with her latest book, *Les Vermeilles* (Actes Sud BD, 2019), of several awards, including a Mention in the 2020 Comics Category of the BolognaRagazzi Award; the Argentinian illustrator and cartoonist Ricardo Siri, known as Liniers, internationally famous for his comic strip *Macanudo*, and winner of the 2020 BolognaRagazzi Comics Award with *Written and Drawn by Henrietta* (TOON Books, 2015). The panel was chaired by Ed Nawotka of *Publishers Weekly*.

Link to the event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvSxWvn8v0g&feature=youtu.be>

But that was not all the new features announced by Bologna Children's Book Fair.

GLOBAL RIGHTS EXCHANGE, the platform inaugurated last May has been overhauled and will be presented next 3 November. Many new functions, highlights and filters will make **the search for titles, authors and publishers quicker and more effective**, helping copyright buyers and sellers to meet up more rapidly with the right partners.

The Illustrators Exhibition, preceded by the international BCBF competition, has not only gone digital with its selection process but also with the promotion given not only to the winners selected for the Exhibition - whose work will be published in the catalogue and be part of the itinerant world tour after Bologna - but also to the finalists (about 200), who will be given broad visibility on the book fair's very popular social media channels.

Aldus Up is the new European project headed by the AIE, the Italian Publishers Association, bringing together 20 European book fairs in a single network. BCBF is naturally one of them. We participated in the first initiatives rolled out at the Frankfurt Book Fair and are preparing the upcoming BCBF to host a series of debates and meetings on publishing markets, new strategies and the international rights market following the pandemic.

Ufficio stampa Mara Vitali Comunicazione

Mara Vitali – mara@mavico.it
Claudia Tanzi +39 340 1098885 – claudia@mavico.it

Communication and External Relations Manager

Isabella Bonvicini, tel. 051 282920 – cell. + 39 335 7995370 – isabella.bonvicini@bolognafiere.it

Ufficio stampa BolognaFiere SpA

Gregory Picco, tel. +39 051 282862 – cell. +39 3346012743 – gregory.picco@bolognafiere.it