

## LO ZAINETTO DI MATILDE

by *Fabio Sardo, Luca Cognolato e Silvia Del Francia*

**Carthusia Edizioni**

WINNER OF THE  
SILENT BOOK CONTEST – GIANNI DE CONNO AWARD 2021



**LO ZAINETTO DI MATILDE** is the winning book of the 8th Edition of the **Silent Book Contest – Gianni De Conno Award 2021**, the first international contest for illustrated books without words. It's a challenge and a bet for the illustrators around the world: they're called to participate to the contest by realizing a "silent" book and to be judged by an important International Jury.

The 8th Edition of the Silent Book Contest – Gianni De Conno Award 2021 sees **Carthusia Edizioni** as **main organizer** together with some important partners like **Bologna Children's Book Fair**, **Salone Internazionale del Libro di Torino**, **Municipality di Mulazzo**, **Associazione MontereGGio Paese dei Librai**, **IOB International Organization of Book Towns**, **Centro per il libro e la lettura**, **IBBY Italia**, **BPER Banca**, and **Rai Ragazzi** and **Rai Radio 3** as **Media Partners**.

Since the 2018 Edition the contest is dedicated to its ideator **Gianni De Conno**, a great artist and illustrator passed away in August 2017.

The **International Jury**, chaired by **Walter Fochesato** (expert of children's literature and history of illustration – Italy) and composed of **Emanuela Bussolati** (illustrator – Italy), **Eros Miari** (member of the editorial board of the Turin International Book Fair – Italy), **Anastasia Suvorova** (winner of the Silent Book Contest 2018 – Russia), **Elena Pasoli** (director of the Bologna Children's Book Fair – Italy), **Sonja Riva** (writer and journalist of CSR – Switzerland), **Sara Wang** (CEO of Sidee Cultural Communication - China), **Javier Zabala** (illustrator – Spain), **Patrizia Zerbi** (publisher of Carthusia Edizioni – Italy) **has selected 14 unpublished finalist projects among the 300 received from 56 countries**, with the support of Costanza De Conno of the SBC Organizing Secretariat:

- “**Grains Feather**” – Deimantė Rybakovienė (Lithuania)
- “**Mr. Tears - Go away**” – Yao Jian (China)
- “**Matilde’s Backpack**” – Fabio Sardo (Italy)
- “**On Silent Waves**” – Desislava Georgieva (Bulgaria)
- “**To sono Blu**” – Irene Guglielmi (Italy)
- “**The lone traveler**” – Lisha Jiang (China)
- “**Waiting**” – Violeta Gomez Gonzalez (Spain)
- “**Where is my home**” – Masha Shebeko (Russia)
- “**Per tutta una vita**” – Anna Spreafico (Italy)
- “**La Notte e la Bambina**” – Sophie Fatus (France)
- “**Light of life**” – Rita Nikiforova (Latvia)
- “**The winter in the Northeast**” – Wang Pin Yi (China)
- “**Lamella**” – Agnes Bertothy (Hungary)
- “**All alone with a phone**” – Therese Rausch Potgieter (South Africa)

After a second round of voting, the International Jury has chosen the **winning project of the SBC2021**.

**LO ZAINETTO DI MATILDE** is a book without words about the daily life of Matilde, a lively and creative little girl, and of her beloved grandfather, who every day goes to pick her up from school. The two spend entire afternoons together making sweets, drawing, playing, until the arrival of mom and dad. But even when, in the evening, Matilde and her grandfather get separated, in some way they find a way to bridge the gap.

Grandparents are a precious figure for children, central points of reference in their journey to grow up, and often detaching from them is not easy: this book, however, tells, with extreme delicacy and with brightly colored illustrations, how it is possible to overcome the detachment thanks to the magic of the little

things that contain memories and emotions.

**The authors Fabio Sardo, Luca Cognolato and Silvia Del Francia** come from three different Italian cities, but one afternoon they decided to sit at a coffee table to build this story together. "We wanted to talk about the tendency of children to find treasures in small things and to keep them. At the center of our story is the difficult theme of detachment, the effort to separate from affections which, even if temporary, is present in the everyday life of the little ones. "

**Fabio Sardo, creator of the illustrative path**, lives and works in Milan. In addition to publishing with the major Italian publishing houses, he is translated abroad, holds workshops for children and online courses on the illustrated book for adults.

**Silvia del Francia and Luca Cognolato, creators of the narrative path**, write together and alone, but also design stories in groups. They are also part of the Arambì collective and their books are translated abroad.

**LO ZAINETTO DI MATILDE** is now part of the serie "SILENT BOOK" published by **Carthusia Edizioni**. The serie has now **21 titles** in it, winners and finalists of the Silent Book Contest. Big books without words tell stories through the only power of the images, "silent" books of great authors who took part of the such an important contest. It will be available **in book shops** in Italy from **middle of October 2021**.

**The Award Winning Ceremony** will take place on  
**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 4 pm**  
during the **Salone Internazionale del Libro of Turin**,  
located at **Sala Gialla, PAD 2**.

Guest at the event: the **three winning authors, Emanuela Bussolati, Costanza De Conno, Walter Fochesato, Eros Miari, Elena Pasoli, Eugenio Tangerini e Patrizia Zerbi**.

More info:

**PRESS OFFICE - Carthusia Edizioni**

Ilaria Maurri – +39 335 1234242 – [i.maurri@carthusiaedizioni.it](mailto:i.maurri@carthusiaedizioni.it)

<https://www.salonelibro.it/programma.html?item=2151>