



THE 60TH BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

Still rocking at 60!

EXHIBITIONS, PRIZES AND OPPORTUNITIES AT THE 2023 EDITION

BCBF as a research and development lab for new trends in global illustration: the exhibitions, prizes, initiatives and opportunities for participating authors and illustrators

The Bologna Children's Book Fair is not just a meeting point for the community of international publishing professionals and a venue for discussion and debate on the most topical issues in the book industry. The Fair has always been a veritable **research and development lab for new trends in illustration around the world**: these same themes go on to inspire and guide the subsequent production of books and stories for children and young people. With its exhibitions, from traditional appointments to projects resulting from new research and opportunities, prizes to support young talent, and opportunities for making contacts and professional development, for both established and fledgling artists, the Bologna Children's Book Fair is an active part of the global scenario of this lively and colourful sector.

LANDSCAPES AND PORTRAITS OF BCBF

The eagerly awaited, and deserved, celebrations for the important milestone of the sixtieth begin with the exhibition *Landscapes and portraits of BCBF*, a playful tribute to the aesthetics of the fair by the winners of the past ten editions of the *Illustrators Exhibition* who accepted the invitation to take part in a contest launched by BCBF. The challenge was to create an illustration that – using just the four colours that make up the BCBF logo – could render in a single image a moment, place, memory or emotion linked to the Fair experience. The winners were chosen by an exceptional panel of judges brought together for this birthday edition: the creators of the past ten covers of the *Illustrators Annual*, the winners of the Hans Christian Andersen Award for Illustration and the Biennial of Illustration Bratislava Grand Prix: **Albertine Zullo, Rotraut Susanne Berner, Laura Carlin, Nina Wehrle/It's Raining Elephant, Roger Mello, Hasan Mousavi, Elena Odriozola, Igor Oleynikov, Peter Sís and Ludwig Volbeda.**

The winning illustrations were assembled, merged and arranged in a dialogue with each other by the Chialab graphics studio to form the visual identity of this happy 60th anniversary. Contest entries and winners are on display together at the exhibition that is held at the Service Centre, next to the *Illustrators Exhibition*, and online on **BCBF Galleries**.

Moreover, as an ideal continuation and extension of the project to the community of illustrators visiting from all over the world, twice a day from Monday to Wednesday at the fair, alongside the exhibition are opportunities for **live painting** - coordinated by Mimaster - where all the artists present are free to participate in the creation of images dedicated to BCBF, beginning with the visuals and colours of its logo.

ITALIAN EXCELLENCE. ILLUSTRATIONS FOR ITALO CALVINO

In a year of anniversaries, there had to be a tribute to one of the absolute protagonists of 20th century Italian literature: one hundred years after his birth, Bologna Children's Book Fair is honouring Italo Calvino. **Italian Excellence. Illustrations for Italo Calvino** is an exhibition, curated by Accademia Drosselmeier/Cooperativa Giannino Stoppani and organised by





the Emilia-Romagna Regional administration with the Bologna Children's Book Fair and supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, that places 120 illustrations dedicated to the great author's work on display right at the heart of the fair. The works include contributions from established artists who have already published their interpretations of Calvino's texts, and the 60 illustrations (2 for each illustrator) winners of a competition promoted by the Fair and open to the participation of candidates from all over the world, who wished to offer their personal visions of the characters, places and ideas in Calvino's novels. The works on display have been collected in a bilingual (Italian and English) **catalogue published by Mondadori**. The exhibition can also be visited on the **BCBF Galleries** portal. After the fair, the exhibition will also be presented in Castiglione della Pescaia and Battipaglia, before embarking on an **international tour** thanks to the collaboration of the Italian Cultural Institutes network. The exhibition is presented in a round table set to take place on **8 March at 5.15 p.m. at the Illustrators Café**.

THE ILLUSTRATORS EXHIBITION

In the year that sees the celebration of the 60th edition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair - BCBF, the *Illustrators Exhibition*, one of the Fair's longest-running and most successful initiatives, established in 1967 as a showcase for unearthing and promoting the latest trends and new talents in world of illustration, is celebrating its 57th birthday.

A total of **4345** illustrators were nominated for the *Illustrators Exhibition 2023*, setting a new record for participation, with a total of **21,725 illustrations submitted from 91 countries and regions** of the world. Of these, **79 sets of illustrations were selected**, the work of **80 artists from 28 countries and regions of the world**, exhibited in their original form at the heart of the Fair where they can be viewed by the professional public. The winners were chosen by a special jury composed for this edition of: **Gusti** (Gustavo Rosemfett, teacher, illustrator and author, winner of the BolognaRagazzi Award 2016 in the special category dedicated to disability with *Mallko e papà*, Argentina/Spain), **Christine Morault** (founder of Éditions MeMo, France), **Sidney Smith** (author and illustrator, winner of four consecutive New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books Awards and two Kate Greenaway Awards, Canada), **Eric Telfort** (illustrator, artist and teacher of digital illustration and Character Design at the Rhode Island School of Design, USA) and **Erik Titusson** (former director of the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, founder of Lilla Piratförlaget, Swedish independent publishing house, Sweden). The jury is meeting the public on **8 March at 11.15 a.m., at the Illustrators Café**. The Illustrators Exhibition 2023 presents a reiteration of the **international experimental project BEYOND SIGHT / OLTRE LA VISTA / 「見る」を 超えて**, organized by Itabashi Art Museum of Tokyo, JBBY - Japanese Board on Books for Young People and Palazzo delle Esposizioni di Roma with the collaboration of the Bologna Children's Book Fair, coordinated by the Art Workshop of Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome. In this initiative the works of five artists from the *Illustrators Exhibition* (James Barker, UK; Yumi Kimura, Japan; Alice Kolb, Switzerland; Julianna Litkei, Hungary; Chieko Terasawa, Japan) have, in fact, been made **accessible to the visually impaired**, "translated" onto tactile wooden boards in order to make them readable, and accompanied by a Braille translation of the captions. The new readable works are also accessible online via BCBF Galleries, from 6 to 9 March only. The project is to be presented on **7 March at 6.00 p.m., at the Illustrators Café: "Beyond Sight: Seeing the Illustrators Exhibition with the Sense of Touch"**. As usual, the exhibition features its own meeting area, the Illustrators Café, for its first time realized in collaboration with **The Folio Society**, renowned for crafting exquisite illustrated editions for book lovers of all ages. The exhibition is also available online through the **BCBF Galleries** portal, accessible from the BCBF website from 6 to 9 March only. At the end of the fair



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it will embark on an **international tour** to cultural venues in many world's cities over the next two years. The first stops will be in Japan (Itabashi Art Museum, from 24 June to 13 August; Nishinomya City Otani Memorial Art Museum, from 19 August to 9 October; Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum, from 10 November to 17 December), and then on to China. As always, the sets of illustrations on display have been collected in the **Illustrators Annual**, the catalogue distributed in specialist international bookshops and published by Corraini in Italian and English, by JBBY - Japanese Board on Books for Young People in Japan, by CCOC in Korea and by Dandelion Picture Book House in China.

THE SOLO EXHIBITION FOR SUZY LEE

The solo exhibition for the artist who created the cover of the *Illustrators Annual* – a task assigned in alternate years to the winners of the H.C. Andersen Award and the Biennial of Illustration Bratislava Grand Prix – shows the work of well-known Korean artist **Suzy Lee**, winner of the H.C. Andersen Award in 2022. The exhibition, set up as usual at the Service Centre and available online via **BCBF Galleries**, displays original works from some of her most famous books: *Wave*, *Shadow*, and *Mirror* (The Border Trilogy), *Lines* and *Summer*, as well as the original of the cover of the *Illustrators Annual 2023* and some digital images from *Alice in Wonderland*. A second section of the exhibition is on display at the same time at the **MAMbo museum** in Bologna. The artist is also attending a meeting at the **Illustrators Café on March 8, 3.15 p.m.**

THE SOLO EXHIBITION FOR ANDRÉS LÓPEZ AND THE BCBF-FUNDACIÓN SM INTERNATIONAL ILLUSTRATION AWARD

The young illustrators selected each year for the *Illustrators Exhibition* are also shortlisted for the now well-established **Bologna Children's Book Fair - Fundación SM International Illustration Award**, which offers a winner aged under 35 a cheque for 15,000 euros with the intention of ensuring the prize winner the peace of mind to create an illustrated book over the following a year, which will then be published and launched on the world market by the Spanish publisher SM. The originals of the book's illustrations are then presented in a solo exhibition at the following year's edition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair and made available online on **BCBF Galleries**. For the 2023 edition, the exhibition shows the work of 2022 winner, Mexican illustrator Andrés López, who has created the book *Volver a mirar* about the importance of being curious about the world around us. Andrés López is meeting the fair's public **on 7 March at 2.00 p.m. at the Illustrators Café.**

MAPPING EXHIBITION 2023

The 2023 edition also sees the conclusion of the European Union's four-year project to investigate the relationship between early childhood and the performing arts, *Mapping - a map on the aesthetics of performing art for early years*, that has included the annual illustration contest **The Children Spectators**. An artistic research project supported by the European Union within the Creative Europe programme, in which the Bologna Children's Book Fair is a partner, the initiative has involved 18 institutions, theatres and artists from 17 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Holland, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom), led by **La Baracca - Testoni Ragazzi Theatre, the youth and children's theatre in the city of Bologna**. The end of the project is celebrated with a large exhibition - also available online on **BCBF Galleries** - that brings





together two smaller ones: *The Children Spectators*, containing the works selected in the four previous editions of the contest, together with *The Illustrated Map*, gathering 34 works created specially by four great names in international illustration: Fabian Negrin, Manuel Marsol, Katsumi Komagata and Klaas Verplancke. The four illustrators are presenting their works in the meeting “Introducing The Illustrated Map” on 7 March at 4.00 p.m., Illustrators Café.

THE BRAW AMAZING BOOKSHELF AND 15 YEARS OF OPERA PRIMA

This year too, in addition to the customary showcase for the winners and special mentions, the fair displays *The BRAW Amazing Bookshelf* exhibition, a selection of 100 entries that are exhibited in a scenic display (and online on **BCBF Galleries**) open to the public of professionals to browse, read and discover, offering inspiration and generating business opportunities. Alongside these 100 publishing gems, is a focus on 20 of the best books nominated for the **Opera Prima** award category dedicated to excellent titles by first-time authors or illustrators, in tribute to the first 15 years of the award. The Opera Prima section of the BolognaRagazzi Award was established in 2009 in tribute to the late art director Giovanni Lanzi. “Maestro Lanzi”, as he was called at the Fair, was the creator of the logo and long-time curator of BCBF’s visual identity.

WOMEN DONNE FEMMES FRAUEN 女性 MUJERES WANAWAKE نساء ...

With the happy occasion of 8 March falling this year during the days of the fair, the Bologna Children’s Book Fair is celebrating International Women’s Day with the exhibition *Women donne femmes frauen 女性 mujeres wanawake نساء...* curated by the Accademia Drosselmeier/Cooperativa Giannino Stoppani and also available online on **BCBF Galleries**. The exhibition offers a selection of picture books that pay tribute to what – all too recently – has become a genuine trend in publishing for children and young people, a vein whose success and production is showing no sign of stopping: the exhibition includes excellent texts dedicated to women and their battles for rights, to women and their role in art, science, sport, music, fashion, writing and the promotion of reading.

UKRAINE ILLUSTRATED

The exhibition *Ukraine Illustrated* presents a selection of works by Ukrainian artists who offer a portrait of their country as it is now and as it has become over the past 12 months: battered by war and feeling that pain, but also strong, still proud and united as never before. The exhibition is organised by the **International Book Arsenal Festival** and the **Pictoric Illustrators Club**, which, since the Russian invasion on 24 February 2022, has been collecting posters made by illustrators and graphic designers portraying what is happening in Ukraine, as well as their personal stories, anti-war messages and appeals for help for their country. A preview of the exhibition is set up at the heart of the fair at the Service Centre as a reminder to all passers-by to visit the full collection on display at the Illustrators Survival Corner and online on BCBF Galleries.

A DIVE INTO THE SEA OF NEW ITALIAN COMICS, 2019-22

A selection of comics published in recent years by twenty-five Italian publishers (from independent micro-publishers to the leading publishers of comics in Italy, from long-established players to others who have entered the sector more





recently). The selection, which ranges from single volumes and miniseries to magazines and serial productions, highlights the great variety of the titles as well as their artistic and narrative quality. The initiative also presents a selection of the best current production, including works by authors with consolidated experience and, for the most part, writers and illustrators aged under forty, who have innovated and reinvigorated the graphic and thematic panorama of Italian comics. These include “pure” cartoonists, but also multifaceted authors, whose work spans various graphic languages. An opportunity for the international public to discover, or rediscover, the excellence of Italian comics. The exhibition is organised by the **Bologna Children’s Book Fair in collaboration with the Comics & Graphic Novels Commission of AIE – the Italian Publishers Association and with the support of ITA – the Italian Trade Agency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**. The exhibition is curated by Marco Pellitteri, associate professor of media and communication at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University.

SILENT BOOK CONTEST

A showcase is also dedicated to the books shortlisted for final of the **Silent Book Contest - Gianni De Conno Award**, this year in its **tenth edition**, dedicated to the great Italian illustrator and organised by Carthusia Edizioni in collaboration with the Bologna Children’s Book Fair, the Turin Book Fair, the Municipality of Mulazzo and the Associazione Montereaggio Paese dei Librai, the IOB - International Organisation of Book Towns, the Centro per il Libro e la Lettura (Centre for Books and Reading) and IBBY Italia. The finalists are to be announced on **6 March at 5.00 p.m. at the Illustrators Café**, by: Patrizia Zerbi (publisher and editorial director, Carthusia Edizioni, Italy); Walter Fochesato (president of the jury and expert in children's literature and history of illustration, Italy); Elena Pasoli (Exhibition Manager, Bologna Children's Book Fair, Italy); Emanuela Bussolati (illustrator, Italy); Eros Miari (member of the editorial board of the Turin Book Fair, Italy); Mussi Bollini (deputy director of RAI Ragazzi, Italy); Costanza De Conno (secretary of the Silent Book Contest, Italy); Gilberto Borghi (Head of External Relations, BPER Banca, Italy).

QUENTIN BLAKE

The Bologna Children’s Book Fair offers its best wishes for the **90th birthday** of the great English artist and illustrator: an entire **wall at the entrance to the fair** is dedicated to Quentin Blake, welcoming visitors from all over the world with illustrations created on the occasion of the artist’s birthday. To celebrate Blake’s milestone birthday, indeed, the Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration have invited **90 of the UK’s leading illustrators** (including Axel Scheffler - best known for his collaborations with Julia Donaldson including *The Gruffalo*, Lauren Child - former Children’s Laureate and creator of *Charlie and Lola*, Chris Riddell - political cartoonist for *The Observer*, Margaret Calvert - best known as a designer of the UK road sign system, plus Oliver Jeffers, Posy Simmonds, Joey Yu, Hannah Berry and many, many more) to create an image of a candle that references the original meaning of the word ‘illustration’ as “to light up, make light or illuminate”.

THE ILLUSTRATORS WALL

One of most appreciated opportunities for visibility for illustrators, the Illustrators Wall, which is available to artists arriving from all over the world, returns at BCBF 2023. During the days of the fair the wall becomes a genuine living, multiform exhibition, enriched, enhanced, and transformed hour by hour with the addition of images, business cards,





and proposals addressed to the professional public at the fair, unearthing new talent and generating business opportunities. Set up, as per tradition, at the Service Centre, the Illustrators Wall is joined again this year by three **video stations** that bring to the halls of Bologna Exhibition Centre the drawings uploaded onto the digital version of the Wall by **800 illustrators from 30 Countries and regions** of the world, with the images running on a loop during the four days of the event. The Illustrators Wall will remain online on the BCBF website from 16 February to 31 August 2023, and is also accessible from the BCBF23 app.

THE BOLOGNABOOKPLUS EXHIBITIONS

Also returning are the two exhibitions promoted by BBPlus and dedicated to editorial graphics, with a focus on the best cover designs: *Jackets Off* offers a comparison of the graphic interpretations of George Orwell's contemporary classic *1984* in different languages and cultures, while *Jacket Design: The Best of the Best* focuses on the forms and modes of editorial design in the Market of Honour country, **Greece**.

BOLOGNARAGAZZI AWARD, CROSSMEDIA AND THE INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

In addition to its headline awards, the **BolognaRagazzi Award, BolognaRagazzi CrossMedia Award**, the Bologna Children's Book Fair is both the promoter for numerous important awards that influence and guide publishing for children and young adults worldwide, and the stage for the leading international awards for the sector: the **Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award** is announced live from the Children's Book Fair 2023 **on 7 March at 12.45 p.m. at the Illustrators Café**, while Ibby is presenting the shortlist at the biennial **Hans Christian Andersen Award**, which will be given in 2024.

THE BOP - BOLOGNA PRIZE FOR THE BEST CHILDREN'S PUBLISHERS OF THE YEAR

Organised by the Bologna Children's Book Fair and AIE – the Association of Italian Publishers, in collaboration with IPA – the International Publishers Association and dedicated to the **best publisher chosen for each of the six areas of the world** (Europe; Africa; Asia; Oceania; South and Central America and the Caribbean; and North America), the Bologna Prize for the Best Children's Publishers of the Year is now in its 11th edition. Aimed at publishing houses nominated and selected by the publishers themselves, as well as by publishers' associations and institutions dedicated to the promotion of reading at international level, the prize was created on the occasion of BCBF's 50th anniversary with the aim of acknowledging the publishers that have distinguished themselves most for the creative character and quality of their publishing choices over the past year, raising the bar with their publishing projects, highlighting their professional skills, and promoting mutual knowledge and exchanges between countries and different cultures around the world.

10 YEARS OF THE ARS IN FABULA - GRANT AWARD

Each year the Ars in Fabula school of illustration puts together a jury made up of Master's course teachers to select an unpublished illustrator from the under-30s featuring in the Illustrators Exhibition, rewarding their work with the **ARS IN FABULA - Grant Award**. The award, which serves to provide promising young illustrators with adequate training and helps publishers unearth new styles and colours for their books, offers the opportunity to attend the ARS IN FABULA – Master's course in Illustration for Publishing free of charge, working on a book project assigned by one of the Master's





course partner publishers. On the occasion of the **10th anniversary** of the award, an **exhibition** of the works produced by the 10 award-winners of all the past editions is set up at the fair and online on **BCBF Galleries**.

IN ALTRE PAROLE (IN OTHER WORDS)

In order to promote the translation of children's books and to showcase talented young translators to publishers in the sector, BCBF is holding the translation competition **In Altre Parole**, dedicated this year to translation from **Japanese**. Celebrating this year the 20th anniversary of the Translators Centre of BCBF, the award is aimed at praising the great value translators bring to the publishing sector, by allowing exchanges of ideas and creativity among different markets and by acting as scouts, and celebrates this year the 20th anniversary of the Translators Centre of BCBF. Japanese has been chosen following and acknowledging the great success of manga Italy has experienced in the latest period. This year's jury who is choosing the winner translator is composed of Federica Lippi (Istituto Giapponese di Cultura di Roma and manga translator, Italia) and Francesco Vitucci (Professor at University of Bologna and translator, Italia). The prize-giving ceremony is scheduled at the **Translators Café on 9 March, at 11.15 a.m.**

STREGA PRIZE RAGAZZE E RAGAZZI

The Premio Strega Ragazze e Ragazzi this year reaches its **eighth edition**, collecting 32 submissions for the category **Prize for the best narrative in pictures**, born in 2022 in order to highlight the relationship between Bologna Children's Book Fair and Premio Strega. On **March 8**, the winner is announced in an event **at the Illustrators Café, 2.15 p.m.**

The Premio Strega Ragazze e Ragazzi is promoted by **Fondazione Maria e Goffredo Bellonci** and **Strega Alberti Benevento** – organizers of the **Premio Strega** – together with the **Centro per il libro e la lettura** and **BolognaFiere-Bologna Children's Book Fair**, in collaboration with **BPER Banca**, technical sponsor **La Feltrinelli.com**.

THE CARLA POESIO AWARD

Now in its fifth edition, the Carla Poesio Prize, the award dedicated to the scholar who made a fundamental contribution to the creation and development of the Bologna Children's Book Fair, acknowledges a **standout Italian thesis in Children's Literature**. The 2023 winner is **Caterina Foglieri**, chosen by the jury composed of **Emma Beseghi** (Full Professor of Children's Literature at the University of Bologna), **Lorenzo Cantatore** (Full Professor of Children's Literature at the Roma Tre University) and **Pino Boero** (Professor of Children's Literature at the University of Genoa) for her thesis entitled *Tra voli e cadute. Gli atterraggi di fortuna nella letteratura per l'infanzia* (Bologna). The judges gave the following motivation: *"The thesis uses an original approach to explore the theme of flight and fall – which has fascinated various disciplines (from myth to pictorial art, from literature to physics) – starting with the traces left by two great authors in the desert, A. de Saint Exupéry and R. Dahl, to unravel through novels, fairy tales, illustrated books in a passionate journey to discover the depths enclosed in these symbols, true metaphors of growth. The image of the grazed knees of those who have fallen and got up again unfolds together with other equally loaded images as a reminder that a fall can also give rise to an opportunity and glimpses of new paths can open up."* The thesis will be published by Edizioni ETS in 2024, thanks to the support of BolognaFiere. The winner is to be awarded on **8 March at 11.30 a.m. in Sala Melodia**.





THE GOLDEN PINWHEEL EXHIBITION

The Golden Pinwheel Young Illustrators Competition is an international illustration contest held annually as part of the China Shanghai International Children's Book Fair (CCBF), with the support of the Shanghai Press and Publication Administration. Since its creation in 2015, the competition has been providing a venue for emerging illustrators to showcase their talent. It aims to build bridges between them and children's publishers, both locally and globally. **The Golden Pinwheel Exhibition** (Hall 26, stand B145) - organized by China Shanghai Children's Book Fair in partnership with Bologna Children's Book Fair - is showcasing in Bologna some of the winning illustrations.



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