



## THE 60<sup>th</sup> BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

*Still rocking at 60!*

### BOLOGNARAGAZZI AWARD, 56<sup>th</sup> edition

The winners and special mentions: with 2349 titles from 59 countries and regions around the world, the award continues to grow this year at the 60<sup>th</sup> edition of the Children's Book Fair.

The night, the word, bodies, not to mention new aesthetics and representations: the 2023 entries tell stories about the search for new possibilities and the need to redefine the world.

#### IN NUMBERS

A total of 2349 titles were submitted by 644 publishers from 59 countries and regions around the world. The figures for the 2023 BolognaRagazzi Award (BRAW) confirm an increase in the number of entries again this year, with books from Bangladesh, Cyprus, Macedonia, Malaysia, Puerto Rico and Venezuela arriving on the juries' tables for the first time.

#### THE AWARD

Since 1966, the BolognaRagazzi Award has been showcasing the **best books for children and young adults published around the world**, acknowledging in particular the quality of their graphic-editorial design, innovation and balance, along with their ability to create a dialogue with young readers. Thanks to the prestige it has acquired over the years and the interest it is able to catalyze from the professional community worldwide, the BolognaRagazzi Award represents not only an important publishing accolade, but also a unique business opportunity in the international rights market as well as a useful tool for anticipating and highlighting the new themes and publishing trends that will be central at the fair and its international manifestations.

Divided into categories, **Fiction**, **Non-Fiction**, **Opera Prima** (reserved for first-time authors), **Comics** and the special category dedicated this year to **Photography** (a tribute to the strong documentary power of this expressive medium as well as the infinite artistic possibilities it offers), this year's edition of the award has seen a particular increase in the number of entries for Fiction, Comics and Opera Prima.

Completing the BRAW line up is **New Horizons**, a special prize that the jury awards to a work that stands out for the innovativeness of its publishing product.

#### THE TRENDS

Among the latest trends of 2023 is the theme of the **"nocturnal"**: the night has burst into narratives for young children all over the world, emerging as a place of imagination, an elsewhere in which dreaming and the unconscious open up to fun and possibilities. The night also manifests itself through stories that give space to darker and more painful emotions, from loneliness to friendships that break down, which too have become a subject for literary exploration. Other new innovations come from the focus on the **word**: from first alphabet books to fiction and non-fiction books, titles from





every country are comparing languages, telling their stories and teaching how to “name” them, giving expression to a **need to rename the world** that is symptomatic of the need to redefine it. At the other end of the spectrum are **wordless books**: the exponential growth of these in recent years sees them now equated with “written” books, highlighting a change in sensibility that has taken place in the public’s taste and perception, a synesthetic sensibility now capable of accommodating significant variety in forms of publishing products that until recently would have been hard to imagine.

Alongside these, the more than 2,300 entries submitted for the BolognaRagazzi Award confirm the growth and **development of many of the trends that have emerged during the last few years’ editions**, with mature contributions that make use of very different languages. A common feature of many of the proposals received is a notable presence of fluorescent colors and a freer representation of the body that no longer conforms to traditional canons: a process of liberation that highlights a **new, authentic and unfiltered “body truth”**. Another area in expansion and offering new insights is that of **non-fiction for children and young people**, which has already featured in recent editions of the award and now sees mature entries enriching scientific content with pioneering research and attention to aesthetic aspects. In particular, the discourse concerning the **environment** also continues to develop, breaking free from purely educational approaches to interpret the topic through a broader “cosmic belonging” of childhood that always relates back to the surrounding world.

The entries for the **comics** category in particular featured a desire to redefine the relationship between children and loneliness, addressed in a style that is often delicate and minimalist and that, in difference to realistic representations, becomes a space for fantastical and intimate exploration filled with possibilities.

## THE JURIES

The juries, as always, are composed of international experts from the sector, who came together in Bologna for an intense two days during which they scrutinized the entries and identified the trends at this edition.

For the categories Fiction, Non-Fiction, Opera Prima and for the New Horizons award, this year reading, discussing and evaluating the hundreds of books were: **Doris Breitmoser** (Germany); **Riccardo Falcinelli** (Italy); **Orna Granot** (Israel); and **Dee Lalljee** (United Kingdom).

The profiles of each of the jury members can be found at:

<https://www.bolognachildrenbookfair.com/en/awards/bolognaragazzi-award/2023-braw-jury/8387.html>

For the Comics category: **Roel Daenen** (Belgium); **Igort** (pseudonym of Igor Tuveri, Italy); **Bill Kartalopoulos** (USA).

The personal profiles of the jury members can be found here:

<https://www.bolognachildrenbookfair.com/en/awards/bolognaragazzi-award/2023-braw-comics-jury/9941.html>

For the Photography category: **Walter Guadagnini** (Italy); **Laurence Le Guen** (France); **Junko Yokota** (Japan).

The personal profiles of the jury members can be found here:

<https://www.bolognachildrenbookfair.com/en/awards/bolognaragazzi-award/2023-braw-photography-jury/9940.html>





## 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 presents *The BRAW Amazing Bookshelf* exhibition, a selection of **100 excellent prize nominees** that is exhibited in a scenic display (also available online on BCBF Galleries), open to the public of professionals to browse, read and discover, offering inspiration and 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. Now in its 15<sup>th</sup> edition, the Opera Prima section of the BolognaRagazzi Award was established in 2009 as a tribute following the death of art director Giovanni Lanzi. “Maestro Lanzi”, as he was called at the fair, was the creator of the logo and long-time curator of the visual identity. With him and his long career in mind, BolognaFiere decided that the best tribute would be to offer its support to young people. Now, 15 years on, the judges regularly encounter an extraordinary wealth of talent: at this year's edition, in fact, 200 titles were nominated for the award category.

The anniversary of the prize is also the subject of an in-depth discussion at the fair, at the conference **“BRAW Opera Prima Prize 2009-2023: 15 years of extraordinary debuts” (6 March, 4.30 p.m., Authors Café)** which examines two publishing success stories launched by the BCBF prize, *Là Fora-Guia para Descobrir a Natureza* (by Maria Ana Peixe Dias & Inês Teixeira do Rosário/Bernardo P. Carvalho, Planeta Tangerina, Portugal) and *Where is Your Sister?* (text and illustrations by Puck Koper, Two Hoots, UK).

The jury's motivations can be found at:

<https://www.bolognachildrenbookfair.com/en/awards/bolognaragazzi-award/bolognaragazzi-award-all-the-2022-winners/10903.html>

The winners and special mentions are:

### **FICTION**

#### **Winner**

Title: **Todo lo que pasó antes de que llegaras (Everything That Happened Before You Arrived)**

Text and illustrations by: Yael Frankel

Publisher: Limonero, 2022

Country: Argentina

#### **Special Mentions**

Title: **噹噹噹 (Thump! Thump! Thump!)**

Text by: Yu Yi

Illustrations by: Wang Zumin

Publisher: 21st Century Publishing Group, 2021

Country: China





**Title: Spinne spielt Klavier (Spider Plays Piano)**

Text and illustrations by: Benjamin Gottwald

Publisher: Carlsen Verlag GmbH, 2022

Country: Germany

**Title: 이사가 (Moving Away)**

Text and illustrations by: Ji Yeon Lee

Publisher: NCSOFT Corporation, 2022

Country: South Korea

**NON-FICTION**

**Winner**

**Title: Art of Protest**

Text by: De Nichols

Illustrations by: Diana Dagadita, Saddo, Olivia Twist, Molly Mendoza, Diego Becas

Publisher: Big Picture Press (Bonnier Books UK), 2021

Country: United Kingdom

**Special Mentions**

**Title: Woven of the World**

Text by: Katey Howes

Illustrations by: Dinara Mirtalipova

Publisher: Chronicle Books, 2022

Country: USA

**Title: Ogdalo bez mana (The Flawless Mirror)**

Text and illustrations by: Agata Lučić

Publisher: Mala zvona d.o.o., 2022

Country: Croatia

**OPERA PRIMA**

**Winner**

**Title: Mariedl. Une histoire gigantesque (Mariedl. A Gigantic Story)**

Text and illustrations by: Laura Simonati





Publisher: Versant Sud, 2022

Country: Belgium

### Special Mentions

Title: **The Blue: Bench**

Text and illustrations by: mia

Publisher: Studio Woom, 2022

Country: South Korea

### COMICS

#### Winner Early Reader

Title: **Whose Sock?**

Text and illustrations by: Sun Jun

Publisher: Hsin Yi Publications, 2020

Country: Taiwan

#### Special Mentions Early Reader

Title: **Après les vagues (After the Waves)**

Text and illustrations by: Sandrine Kao

Publisher: Grasset Jeunesse, 2022

Country: France

Title: **O primeiro dia (The First Day)**

Text and illustrations by: Henrique Coser Moreira

Publisher: Planeta Tangerina, 2022

Country: Portugal

#### Winner Middle Grade

Title: **Un matin (One Morning)**

Text by: Jérôme Dubois

Illustrations by: Laurie Agusti

Publisher: La Partie, 2022

Country: France



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### Special Mentions Middle Grade

Title: 그림자 극장 (**The Shadow Theater**)

Text and illustrations by: Kyu-Ah Kim

Publisher: Bear Books Inc., 2022

Country: South Korea

Title: **House of Dracula**

Text by: Sunday

Illustrations by: Heedae Yun

Publisher: Dogbooks, 2022

Country: South Korea

Title: **Le monde des animaux perdus (The World of the Lost Animals)**

Text and illustrations by: Noémie Weber

Publisher: Gallimard Jeunesse, 2022

Country: France

### Winner Young Adult

Title: さかな作品集 プラネタリウム・ゴースト・トラベル  
(**Planetarium Ghost Travel The Art of Sakatsuki Sakana**)

Text and illustrations by: Sakana Sakatsuki

Publisher: PIE International Inc., 2021

Country: Japan

### Special Mentions Young Adult

Title: **Aujourd'hui (Today)**

Text and illustrations by: Loïc Froissart

Publisher: L'Articho, 2021

Country: France

Title: **Avant l'oubli**

Text and illustrations by: Lisa Blumen

Publisher: L'employé du moi, 2021

Country: Belgium



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**Title: Night Night**

Text and illustrations by: Chivas Leung

Publisher: Studio MARY, 2022

Country: Hong Kong, China

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

**Winner**

**Title: Seen and Unseen**

Text by: Elizabeth Partridge

Images by: Lauren Tamaki

Publisher: Chronicle Books, 2022

Country: USA

**Special Mentions**

**Title: Qui veut jouer avec moi? (Who Wants to Play with Me?)**

Text and images by: Claire Dé

Publisher: Éditions des Grandes Personnes, 2022

Country: France

**Title: Cache-cache cauchemars**

Text and images by: Jean Lecointre

Publisher: Éditions Thierry Magnier, 2018

Country: France

**Title: O adeus do marujo (The Sailor's Goodbye)**

Text and images by: Flávia Bomfim

Publisher: Pallas Editora, 2022

Country: Brazil

**NEW HORIZONS**

**Title: El bolso (The Purse)**

Text by: María José Ferrada

Illustrations by: Ana Palmero Cáceres

Publisher: Alboroto Ediciones, 2021

Country: Mexico



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