

**BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR, 53RD EDITION
FROM 4TH - 7TH APRIL**

**THE CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR AWARDS
Eagerly awaited by the publishing world, BolognaFiere's awards
have significant international value**

Many awards will enrich this year's edition of BCBF. For the very first time, the **Strega Prize 'Ragazzi e Ragazze'** will be awarded, promoted by the Maria and Goffredo Bellonci Foundation with Strega Alberti Benevento in collaboration with BolognaFiere and the Centre for Books and Reading, with the support of BPER Banca and Unindustria Bologna. The new prize, which was announced at the 2015 Fair, is aimed at readers aged between 6 and 10 (category 6+) and between 11 to 15 (category 11+). From the 55 books nominated, the committee coordinated by President of the Bellonci Foundation Tullio De Mauro and composed of Giuseppe Bartorilla, Emma Beseghi, Pino Boero, Ermanno Detti, Silvana Loiero, Carla Ida Salviati and Maria Romana Tetamo has selected the two sets of five finalists. Thanks to the involvement of 50 schools across Italy, the young readers themselves will cast their votes to select the winners in the two categories: the official announcement of the winners will take place at 4pm in Wednesday 6th April at the Fair with the finalists and Minister of Culture Dario Franceschini in attendance at the ceremony.

The **BolognaRagazzi Award (BRAW)** is a hotly contested competition supported by Fedrigoni in which publishers from all over the world have taken part every year since 1966. The prize, **that aims to recognise the best work in terms of their graphic-editorial quality** in the categories of Fiction, Non Fiction, New Horizons and *Opera Prima* (First Works), will this year dedicate a **special section to the theme of disability**, an issue that entered the story of children's books also thanks to the illustrators who played a key role in approaching this issue. Participating in the prize will be books that deal with the subject of disability as well as books produced specifically for children with disabilities.

Also for the BRAW there will be **an international jury**, including members such as **the world president of IBBY** – the International Board for Books for Young People, **Wally De Doncker** and Italian illustrator Emiliano Ponzi, whose work earned high acclaim at its exhibition in New York.

Naturally, a special look at **digital publishing and apps** for children both for education and entertainment must also take place: BolognaFiere has been working since 2002, when it was the first event in the world to create a children's eBook Award. **BolognaRagazzi Digital Award** acknowledges eBooks and Apps for children. To select the winners an international jury of experts will arrive in Bologna led by **American expert in digital material for children, Warren Buckleitner**.

Moreover, the participants in the Illustrator's Exhibition aged under 35 will also be eligible to win the **International Prize for Illustration Bologna Children's Book Fair – Fundación SM**: an important award, the winner of which receives a cheque for 30 thousand dollars, in order to provide them with a year's financial security in which to pen an illustrated book that will be published and launched on the market by the Spanish publisher SM. The prize is in its sixth edition and can boast the discovery of great talents that have gone on to enjoy success in the world of children's books.

Finally, for the fourth year Bologna Children's Book Fair in collaboration with AIE – the Association of Italian Publishers, will assign the **“BOP – Bologna Prize for the Best Children's Publisher of the Year”**, that acknowledges each of the six areas of the world (the five continents but with America considered as North America and Central-South America) the publishers that have stood out for their **creativity, courage and the quality of their editorial selections** over the last year. For this award **the publishers themselves are the jury** based on nominations put forward by institutions from all around the world.