

THE ILLUSTRATORS' EXHIBITION CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

**A significant anniversary for the “heart”
of the Bologna Children’s Book Fair**

**Original works by 50 great illustrators from all over the world
who have helped the event create history**

The **Bologna Children’s Book Fair** is celebrating **50 years of the Illustrators’ Exhibition** and it will be doing so with **an extraordinary event** involving many of **the world’s greatest illustrators**.

The exhibition “**Artists and Masterpieces of Illustration, 50 Illustrators’ Exhibitions 1967-2016**” tells the story of half a century that has seen a community of artists, publishers and readers meet each year to share their great passion: books and reading. The narration of five decades, in the company of illustrators that have made their debuts at the Fair or participated in the exhibition before going on to achieve international fame.

The exhibition presents to visitors to the Children’s Book Fair and the *Weekend for Young Readers*, fifty artists that have written the history of the Exhibition and today are recognised in the history of illustration. The works of each of them will be present with their first book or the book that best represents their style; books that have received important awards including the Bologna Ragazzi Award. Fifty artists and fifty masterpieces, great classics that have influenced the young generations because illustration is born and lives in the stories that it recounts.

Over the last half century new talents and established artists have participated in the Illustrators’ Exhibition, all selected by prestigious juries made up of different professionals from the world of children’s publishing. Among these publishers are names such as Rosellina Archinto, of the pioneering *Emme Edizioni*, and Gabriella Armando for *Nuove Edizioni Romane*, able talent scouts that brought to Italy the first book by Macaulay; Arthur Hubschmid for the Parisian publisher *L’École des Loisirs*, Tom Peterson of the American *Creative Editions*; the Neugebauers father and son, Friedrich and Michael, for *Neugebauer Verlag*; today *Minedition*, which for many years also published the Exhibition Annual; and Pierre Marchand, who with the French publisher *Gallimard Jeunesse* supported the Exhibition in its early years.

“**Artists and Masterpieces of Illustration. 50 Illustrators’ Exhibitions 1967-2016**”: an exhibition and a publication that intends to record the evolution and the latest trends in illustrated books for children through the work of artists from all over the world. In Italy with Altan, creator of *Pimpa*, and Roberto Innocenti with the unmissable *Rose Blanche*; together with great masters of illustration, Bruno Munari, Iela Mari and Lele Luzzati, to artists such as Chiara Carrer, Fabian Negrin and Alessandro Sanna, and the very young; from Britain, Quentin Blake, illustrator of Roald Dahl, Tony Ross, who is adored by the very young for his *Stories of a Princess Series*, including “*I want my Potty!*”; from France, Jean Claverie, author of *Little Lou, Little Lou*, and Yan Nascimbene, the refined illustrator of Italo Calvino; from Prague, the grand

dame of illustration, Květa Pacovská; from the United States, Eric Carle, creator of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and David Macaulay; from Australia, Shaun Tan, with *The Arrival*, a pertinent story of migration; to the South Korean Suzy Lee with *The Wave*, a precious book without words, a *cult* work for readers of all ages, just to name a few.

The **publication accompanying the exhibition** (Corraini Edizioni) includes texts by the Swiss illustrator Etienne Delessert, among the pioneers of the modern illustrated book, American critic Leonard Marcus, Kiyoko Matsuoka of the Itabashi Art Museum, which for over thirty years has been organizing The Exhibition's tour of Japan and curator Paola Vassalli*, tracing the history of the Exhibition since 1967 through the images, books and words of the artists.

The presentation of "Artists and Masterpieces of Illustration. 50 Illustrators' Exhibitions 1967-2016" will take place in **Monday 4th April at 11.30 a.m. at The Illustrator's Café**. With speeches by Etienne Delessert, Leonard Marcus, Kiyoko Matsuoka and Paola Vassalli, the event will be coordinated by Ferruccio Giromini.

**Paola Vassalli is an expert in children's literature and art education. She has planned and directed the Educational Services - Art workshops at the Palazzo delle Esposizioni and the Scuderie del Quirinale museums in Rome. She has curated important retrospectives of artists including Etienne Delessert, Roberto Innocenti, Leo Lionni, Lorenzo Mattotti, Maurice Sendak, Tomi Ungerer; and in 2014, with Silvana Sola, the exhibition and book I nostri anni '70. Libri per ragazzi in Italia [Our 1970s. Children's Books in Italy]. (Rome Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Corraini Edizioni).*