



**BOLOGNA  
CHILDREN'S  
BOOK  
FAIR**



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**59<sup>th</sup> edition**  
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**THE 59<sup>th</sup> BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR — 21-24 MARCH 2022**

## **FOCUS ON: ILLUSTRATORS, BOOKS AND AWARDS**

The Visual Identity, the Illustrators Exhibition, the Illustrators Survival Corner, the Illustrators Wall, the new events on Africa, fluo books, the Awards and all of the opportunities for professionals and newcomers

Ukrainian Books: an exhibition to guarantee a Ukrainian presence at the Fair

Indie Italian Publishers: an exhibition dedicated to small Italian publishers

The Bologna Children's Book Fair is not only a meeting place for the international publishing community to exchange publishing rights and to discuss and debate the most topical issues in the book industry: the Bologna Children's Book Fair has always served as a fully-fledged laboratory for research and development into new trends in illustration worldwide, the same trends that inspire and guide the subsequent production of books and stories for children and young people. With its Exhibitions that range from established events to projects inspired by new research, its Awards to nurture young talent, and its opportunities for meeting and training established artists and newcomers, the Bologna Children's Book Fair is an active part of the global scene for this lively and colourful sector. Here are the events at the 59<sup>th</sup> edition.

### **THE ILLUSTRATORS EXHIBITION**

The interest and esteem of the international community of artists, professionals and enthusiasts that has built up over the years around the Bologna Children's Book Fair (BCBF) is even stronger this year: **3873 artists have submitted work to appear in the 56<sup>th</sup> Illustrators Exhibition, a record in the history of the prestigious event.** Each year the Illustrators Exhibition brings the best of new trends in the field of illustration to the attention of professionals, shaping the development of publishing for children and young people. A total of **19,365** illustrations were submitted from **92 countries** around the world. **78 sets of illustrations were selected:** the 78 artists that created them originate from 29 countries and regions of the world. The selected illustrations were chosen by an international jury composed this year of: **Barroux** (illustrator and author, France), **Nana Furiya** (illustrator and author, Japan), **Agata Loth-Ignaciuk** (founder of the Druganoga publishing house, Poland), **Irene Savino** (graphic designer, illustrator and artistic director of Ediciones Ekaré, Venezuela) and **Valerio Vidali** (illustrator and author, Italy). On display right in the heart of the Fair, the original works can be viewed by the public at the Bologna Children's Book Fair, confirming the role of the Illustrators Exhibition as a truly unique stage, a springboard for emerging talents and an opportunity for established artists to meet again. At the same time, the Exhibition is also available online through the **BCBF Galleries** portal, accessible from the Fair's website, to offer people all over the world the opportunity to see the present and the future of world illustration. Having taken place at the two previous editions solely in digital form, this year the digital dimension is being retained, alongside the in-person exhibition, in order to benefit a wider public. After the Fair, the Exhibition will embark on a two-year tour of art museums around the world, starting with four stops in Japan (Itabashi Art Museum; Nishinomya City Otani Memorial Art Museum; Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum; Ota City Museum of Art and Library), before continuing on to China and Korea.

### **THE SOLO EXHIBITIONS OF ELENA ODRIOZOLA, PEI-HSIN CHO AND SARAH MAZZETTI**

Returning to their former venue in the Service Centre, alongside the *Illustrators Exhibition*, are the customary solo exhibitions for the winners of the previous edition of the Fundación SM Bologna Children's Book Fair International Illustration Award and the illustrator of the cover of the Annual Illustrators Exhibition catalogue, *The Illustrators Annual* (Italian and English versions published by Corraini and published in Japan by JBBY - Japanese Board on Books for Young People, in South Korea by CCOC and in China by Dandelion

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Picture Book House), assigned in alternate years to the winners of the H. C. Andersen Award and the Grand Prix of the Bratislava Biennial of Illustration.

Spain's **Elena Odriozola**, winner of the BIB Grand Prix 2021 for *Sentimientos encontrados*, is the creator of the 2022 cover and the subject of a solo exhibition that retraces her career. Winner of numerous prizes and awards, in 2010 her work was selected for the Illustrators Exhibition at the Bologna Children's Book Fair. She has been nominated seven times for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award and three times for the H.C. Andersen Award, of which she was a finalist in 2020.

This exhibition is flanked by the monographic exhibition dedicated to the winner of last year's Bologna Children's Book Fair - Fundación SM International Prize for Illustration, an award established in 2009 with the aim of discovering, encouraging and nurturing new talents in illustration and aimed at artists aged under 35 years who have been selected for the Illustrators Exhibition. Pei-Hsin CHO is a Taiwanese illustrator currently living in London. The exhibition shows the illustrations that make up *El pescador y su alma* (*The Fisherman and his Soul*), an illustrated book based on a short story by Oscar Wilde, created thanks to the Award grant and published by SM. Pei-Hsin Cho's works challenge the possibilities of visual storytelling, combining traditional and digital media to create delicate and evocative animations and illustrations that endeavour to translate intangible emotions into concrete and visually perceptible images.

Pei-Hsin Cho's solo exhibition is joined this year by that of **Sarah Mazzetti**, the Italian illustrator and winner of the 2019 edition of the SM Prize. Sarah Mazzetti has created a personal and highly original reinterpretation of the story *Thumbelina*. In *Lucilla*, the title of the illustrated book, poverty is portrayed as a character that pushes people towards evil thoughts and actions. The story describes the possibility to leave behind a hostile environment that disfigures human relationships and culminates in an unforgettable, and extremely poetic finale.

#### UKRAINIAN BOOKS

Bologna Children's Book Fair has worked to guarantee a Ukrainian presence in BolognaFiere, by displaying a tribute to Ukrainian publishing, which has always been an important presence, with its publishers and professionals, at BCBF. **Ukrainian Books** is an exhibition organised by Bologna Children's Book Fair, its exhibitors and by the Ukrainian Book Institute, and centred on Ukrainian books for children and young adults: titles have been chosen among those submitted to the BolognaRagazzi Award in the past years and gathered with the help of international publishers attending the Fair, who have been asked to bring along Ukrainian books translated and published in their own countries.

#### VISUAL IDENTITY 2022: CHILDREN'S CONTENT ROCKS: JOIN THE PARTY!

Every year since 2017 the visual identity of the Bologna Children's Book Fair has been created anew by a young illustrator selected from the participants in the previous edition of the Illustrators Exhibition, entrusted with the task of designing the visual universe for the next edition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair. The initiative takes place under the creative direction of design firm **Chialab**, which has been curating the event's image for many years. For the visual identity of the 2022 edition, the selected illustrator was Mexican artist **Sólin Sekkur**, who sought to convey in images the desire for reopening, and the spirit of celebration that typifies the Fair, but without forgetting the fragility of the historic period we are living through. Following intense work, the idea came into being of a parade of wondrous and colourful characters each bearing an idea, a gift. **The exhibition dedicated to Sólin Sekkur and a "behind the scenes" look at the workshop led by Chialab is on display at the Fair, in the Service Centre, and can also be viewed online in the BCBF Galleries portal.** As well as the final illustrations, it is also possible to view the initial concept proposals, sketches and various design phases of the project.

#### THE ILLUSTRATORS SURVIVAL CORNER AND ITS EXHIBITIONS

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The Illustrators Corner is dedicated to the profession of illustration, where artists can share experiences, hone their skills and find practical solutions to professional problems by talking to international experts. It is a space created by Mimaster Illustrazione, an extremely highly regarded educational establishment in the field of international illustration, in collaboration with the Bologna Children's Book Fair. Every year it hosts artists, publishers, agents, editors and art directors from all over the world, who share their experience through masterclasses, workshops and portfolio reviews. This year, this unique area hosts **Cattivi/Villains**, an exhibition of 140 illustrations collected by Mimaster from among the school's former alumni, as well as a large group of great illustrators who have taught there over the years (**Noma Bar, Brad Holland, Katsumi Komagata, Libero Gozzini, William Grill, Federico Maggioni, Lorenzo Mattotti, Emiliano Ponzi, Peter Sis and Olimpia Zagnoli**), all of whom exhibit their "favourite villain".

Whether well-known characters that have always haunted our dreams – Freddy Krueger, It, the Wicked Witch of the West, Bluebeard – or lesser-known figures, there is no illustrator who has not, at least once, had to depict a "villain". From a professional perspective, these characters are arguably more interesting, more complex and more intriguing to represent. The catalogue, published by Edizioni della Galleria l'Affiche with texts by the founders of Mimaster Illustrazione, Ivan Canu and Giacomo Benelli, and graphic design by Daniele Morganti, is divided into the sections **Bestiacce, He devil, She devil, Uomini o mostri? and Parenti serpenti**, which present characters from literature, cinema, history and mythological figures, each accompanied by a quotation, an anecdote and a detailed description.

Also on display at the Corner is the exhibition **Ni Hao Shanghai**, which brings together the visual impressions of three Norwegian illustrators – Mari Kanstad Johnsen, Bjørn Rune Lie and Kristin Roskifte – during their art residency programme as part of the **China Shanghai International Children's Book Fair 2019**, held in collaboration with Magikon Forlag. Through sketches, individual explorations and collective works, the exhibition offers an evocative travel narrative set in the heart of one of the world's greatest cities.

In addition to the exhibitions, as per the tradition, the Corner offers a **packed calendar of more than 80 appointments** – free of charge if reserved in advance – dedicated to the various aspects of editorial work, from the design of the children's book to self-promotion, from handling interviews with publishers to tips on contracts, the use of social media and game design. The Corner was conceived in order to meet the demand of the many illustrators who come to the Fair every year in search of professional opportunities and career development. The scheduled events include masterclasses with **Serge Bloch, Otto Gabos, Lucie Felix, Beatrice Alemagna, Sarah Mazzetti, Joanna Concejo**; meetings in collaboration with the **Taipei Book Fair, Sharjah Book Authority (UAE), UaeBby (UAE), Imaquinario (Peru)** and the Lithuanian festival **Vaikų Žemė**; conferences and workshops dedicated to the world of comics in collaboration with **Hamelin**; **Lucie Luddington** of Bright Agency will talk about agents and representation, **Ts'ai Lun 105** will conduct an in-depth look at game book design, **Neil Packer** will hold a workshop based on his publishing success *One of a Kind: A Story About Sorting and Classifying*. There are also portfolio reviews, which have always been one of the most popular events for illustrators seeking tips for their careers, as well as a meeting with the authors of the Visual Identities of the last three editions of the Fair: **Rasa Jančiauskaitė, Jean Mallard and Solin Sekkur**. Other participants at the Corner include: **David Carter, Anna Castagnoli, Martin Salisbury, Marianna Coppo, Maria Russo and Valentina Colombo**.

At this edition, The Illustrators Survival Corner also benefits from a new space, **The Italian Illustrators Lounge**, where meetings have been organised to facilitate professional connections between foreign publishers and Italian illustrators, with daily 'Meet the publisher' conferences, portfolio reviews and meetings in collaboration with MeFu - Mestieri del Fumetto.

#### THE BRAW AMAZING BOOKSHELF

For the first time, in addition to the traditional showcases displaying the winning books and those with special mentions, this year the Bologna Children's Book Fair is also dedicating an exhibition to the best books nominated for the BolognaRagazzi Award, with the aim of providing visibility to the many deserving works arriving every year from all corners of the world. At **The BRAW Amazing Bookshelf**, 100 titles selected from the candidates in the different categories (Fiction, Non-Fiction, First Novel, Comics, Poetry) are on

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display in the Mall, for the visiting public to browse, read and discover, thereby offering an opportunity to take an exclusive and unprecedented look at the prestigious award, as well as a showcase of the best books to have been released around the world in recent times.

### FLUO BOOKS

130 fluorescent books have been published over the last 10 years in countries and regions of the world whose publishers take part in the Bologna Children's Book Fair annually. This trend is the subject of **Fluo - Lit Up Books**, the new BCBF exhibition curated by Cooperativa Giannino Stoppani/Accademia Drosselmeier, and set up in the Mall, aimed to bring to the attention of a global public one of the most interesting and original developments to have emerged in children's publishing in recent years, a trend that is now experiencing a phase of genuine expansion and experimentation. If we want to trace the history of illustration books in the new millennium, we cannot ignore the incursion of fluorescent colours. Fluorescent colours have triggered a genuine trend with which many artists, from internationally acclaimed illustrators to emerging artists from different countries, are putting themselves to the test, combining new experimental narratives with artistic research. Venturing beyond genres, categories and subjects, fluorescence has become a structural element of the book, requiring a harmonious combination of traditional printing techniques and computer graphics, leading to the development of eclectic and highly personal styles.

### INDIE ITALIAN PUBLISHERS

**At the Bookseller Lounge**, the space dedicated to worldwide librarians, BCBF - **in collaboration with ALIR - Associazione Librerie Indipendenti per Ragazzi** - will offer visibility to 20 small Italian publishers that have answer the call by ALIR by sending to BolognaFiere their best books. These are now displayed in the **Indie Italian Publishers** exhibition: over 100 books have already arrived at BolognaFiere, where they will be seen by the many librarians and professionals attending BCBF, with the aim of promoting the best children's publishing. Bologna Children's Book Fair indeed strongly believes that by hosting children's publishing, independent libraries are able to assure the sharing of great ideas, editorial projects and creativities that are essential to people, culture and to the business market.

### THE SHARJAH EXHIBITIONS

The customary exhibition organised by the Guest of Honour country at the Exhibition Service Centre is organised this year by the **Sharjah Book Authority** and coordinated by **Mohamed Mahdi** (Member of the Committee for the Sharjah Children's Book Illustration Exhibition). **Insight, Reflect** brings together over 100 illustrations by 20 artists from the Emirates who, through their works, invite professionals from the world of children's publishing to a creative and philosophical reflection on the production of books, addressing the future aspirations of the new generations. Through this exhibition, the city of Sharjah presents a fascinating scenario populated by numerous young creative minds engaged in producing illustrated children's books, using different graphic techniques, from realism, to collage, print and abstract. The illustrators in the exhibition have taken part throughout the year in illustration seminars with Arab and international illustration artists.

There is an exhibition of the winning books of the **Etisalat Award for Arabic Children's Literature**, the award dedicated to publishing excellence in the Arab Emirates, organised by the UAE Board on Books for Young People (UAEBBY) with the support of Etisalat.

### AFRICA BOOKS SHOWCASE

A selection of 100 books published by African publishers are being exhibited in the Spotlight on Africa space, highlighting the many strengths of African publishing.

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#### TBILISI ILLUSTRATION FESTIVAL EXHIBITION

The exhibition is dedicated to Georgian illustration, in the framework of Tbilisi World Book Capital 2021.

#### THE BOLOGNABOOKPLUS EXHIBITIONS

BolognaBookPlus, the new general trade arm of BCBF, is also dedicating two exhibitions to the design and illustration of book covers: **International Jacket Design: Best of the Best**, a project that brings together the most beautiful covers of books published in six countries around the world, which will be on display at the Fair; and **Jackets Off**, with an exhibition dedicated to the different international versions of the cover of Margaret Atwood's bestseller *The Handmaid's Tale*, taking us on a journey through the different interpretations of this contemporary classic in different languages and cultures.

#### ITALIAN EXCELLENCE. THE NEW GENERATION OF CHILDREN'S ILLUSTRATORS

The exhibition organised by the Bologna Children's Book Fair/BolognaFiere, the Emilia-Romagna regional administration, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and curated by the Giannino Stoppioni Cooperative/Academia Drosselmeier, is coming to the Fair for the first time: **Italian Excellence. The new generation of children's illustrators** presents the works of twenty young Italian illustrators, chosen from among the most promising young artists in the sector: **Giacomo Agnello Modica, Andrea Antinori, Michael Bardeggia, Beatrice Cerocchi, Marianna Coppo, Francesca Corso, Cecilia Ferri, Chiara Ficarelli, Marta Pantaleo, Giulia Pastorino, Irene Penazzi, Alice Piaggio, Camilla Pintonato, Michelangelo Rossato, Veronica Ruffato, Lorenzo Sangiò, Francesca Sanna, Luca Tagliafico, Giulia Tomai and Veronica Truttero**. Each artist is represented with four illustrations made using any manual, digital or mixed technique. The exhibition includes various techniques and visual poetics capable of interpreting classic stories, from fairy tales to Dante, as well as creating editorial ideas resulting from new and surprising observations. Following the worldwide success of the two previous editions (*Children's Illustration: Italian Excellence* and *Figures for Gianni Rodari. Italian Excellence*), which have been exhibited in more than thirty countries, the promotion of Italian children's illustration around the world continues. A special visit, under the guidance of Silvana Sola, curator of the exhibition, is scheduled for the last day of the Fair, Thursday 24 March.

#### GROWING READERS – THE IBBY ITALIA HONOUR LIST 2021

Having been the protagonist of the various stages of the Bologna Grand Tour, the **IBBY Italia Honour List 2021** has arrived at the fair where it is on display at the IBBY Italia stand. The exhibition, curated by IBBY Italia and produced with the support of AIE (Association of Italian Publishers), BCBF and the Centre for Books and Reading, presents a selection of 70 Italian children's books that excel for their content, visuals and book design.

#### THE CHILDREN-SPECTATORS

The international project **The Children-Spectators** is back this year for its fourth edition. This illustration competition selects the best entries on the theme of the relationship between early childhood and the performing arts. This year saw **721 entries, from 60 countries and regions of the world**. The works are being exhibited online in the BCBF Galleries portal and in the spaces of the Testoni Ragazzi Theatre for Children and Youth in the city of Bologna. A record number of participants took part in the competition, which over its four editions has attracted the attention of numerous illustrators, both professionals and amateurs. The competition jury, composed of **Giovanna Ballin** (editor, head of the international section of Corraini Edizioni), **Roberto Frabetti** (La Baracca - Testoni Ragazzi, president of the jury), **Philip Giordano** (author and illustrator, who lives and works between Italy and Japan), **Giorgia Grilli** (University of Bologna), selected **36 winners from 20 countries and regions** (Argentina, Brazil, China, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, India, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Ukraine). *Il Bambino Spettatore* (The Child Spectator) is part of the four-year project **Mapping - A map on the aesthetics of performing arts for**

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**early years**, an artistic research project supported by the European Union as part of the Creative Europe programme, which is partnered by the Bologna Children's Book Fair, dedicated to investigating the relationship between early childhood (children aged 6 and under) and the performing arts. The project involves 18 institutions, theatres and artists from 17 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom), including the **La Baracca** - Testoni Ragazzi Theatre for Children and Youth. The project will end in 2023 with an exhibition, organised by various institutions in collaboration with BolognaFiere/Bologna Children's Book Fair, which will showcase the best of the winning illustrations from the four editions of the competition, together with the works of four great international artists: **Katsumi Komagata** from Japan, **Manuel Marsol** from Spain, **Fabian Negrin** from Argentina and **Klaas Verplancke** from Belgium. This exhibition will be presented **at the 2023 edition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair, before departing on a tour of the partner cities during the international programme of the 2023 Season Festivals.**

#### **THE SILENT BOOK CONTEST EXHIBITION: THE GIANNI DE CONNO AWARD**

Established in 2014 and named in memory of Gianni De Conno, one of its founders, the Silent Book Contest is an international competition reserved for books "without words", i.e. those works that manage to transcend all limits imposed by language, genre and age, thanks solely to narration through images. The contest is promoted by the Municipality of Mulazzo, the Associazione Montereccio Paese dei Librai, a member of I.O.B. International Organization of Book Towns Italia, with the contribution of Carthusia Edizioni, the collaboration of the Bologna Children's Book Fair and the patronage of IBBY Italia and the Centre for Books and Reading (MiBACT). The most stunning illustrations from the selected silent book projects are on display at the Fair.

#### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR ILLUSTRATORS**

As well as the chance to raise one's profile, the Fair provides various professional opportunities. First and foremost, the youngest illustrators – participants aged under 35 – are automatically entered for the **Bologna Children's Book Fair - Fundación SM International Prize for Illustration**, which offers the winner a cheque for 15,000 euros, with the aim of providing that illustrator the peace of mind to create, over the course of one a year, an illustrated book that will be published and launched on the world market by the Spanish publisher SM. The original illustrations from the book will then be presented at a solo exhibition at the following year's edition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair. Furthermore, a young person selected for the Illustrators Exhibition will be given the task of creating the **BCBF 2023 Visual Identity**, in collaboration with the design firm Chialab. Finally, starting in 2012, Ars in Fabula - School of Illustration set up, in collaboration with the Bologna Children's Book Fair, the **ARS IN FABULA - Grant Award**, which every year rewards an unpublished artist aged under 30 from among those selected for the Illustrators Exhibition, offering them the opportunity to attend the ARS IN FABULA – Master's course in Illustration for Publishing free of charge, and to work on a book project assigned by one of the Master's partner publishers.

#### **THE ILLUSTRATORS WALL**

The return of the Bologna Children's Book Fair as an in-person event marks a return of some of its most successful initiatives. The Illustrators Wall, the wall entirely at the disposal of illustrators, during the Fair becomes a genuine "living" and multiform exhibition, growing by the hour thanks to the addition of images, cards and proposals all on open display to the visiting public at the Fair. Created, as is the tradition, at the Service Centre, the exhibition wall is joined this year by a number of video stations that bring the illustrations from the Digital Wall to the halls of BolognaFiere. These are being played on a loop over the four days of the event. The **Virtual Illustrators Wall**, now in its third edition, is available online **from 21 February to 31 August 2022**. The Wall will feature **900 illustrators from 69 countries and regions of the world**, offering the curious, professionals and enthusiasts the opportunity to browse through the creative illustrations for children and young people from all over the world, divided by continent and country, thanks to the accessibility that the digital offering provides. An exclusive showcase and a unique business opportunity, the

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Illustrators Wall offers both professionals who cannot be present at the Fair, as well as those who make it to Bologna, an additional opportunity for visibility, promotion and contact with publishers, agents and scouts. The complete gallery of participating illustrators is accessible via the official BCBF 2022 event APP.

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