



**BOLOGNA
CHILDREN'S
BOOK
FAIR**



**Bologna
Licensing
Trade
Fair**



59th edition
Children's Content Rocks!
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THE 59th BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR — 21-24 MARCH 2022

INDIE ITALIAN PUBLISHERS

An exhibition of small Italian children's book publishers at the bookseller lounge in collaboration with ALIR

The **Bookseller Lounge** is the area that the Bologna Children's Book Fair dedicates to booksellers who come to the Fair to share good practices and experiences and keep up to date with the latest trends in global publishing. This year BCBF, in **collaboration with ALIR - Associazione Librerie Indipendenti per Ragazzi** (Association of Independent Children's Booksellers), has decided to use this opportunity for visibility to showcase **20 small Italian publishers**, who have responded to ALIR's call by sending the best work from their catalogues to be displayed at the Fair in the *Indie Italian Publishers* exhibition next to the books that ALIR's members will award the Orbil Prize, which will be presented on Monday 21 March at 2.30 pm at an event at the Authors Café.

The exhibition features more than 100 titles, ready to be discovered and perused by the numerous booksellers in attendance and the professional public at the Fair, with the aim of promoting the best literature for children and young people. In fact, when books are given a space at independent bookshops, it creates a wide circulation of ideas and publishing projects and guarantees a bibliodiversity that benefits the public, the market and culture in general. From small recently discovered publishing houses to well-known publishers that had never before taken part in the Fair, ALIR's call to the collective was addressed to very different players, but all share the same diligent work of research that is embodied in their high quality proposals.

The following publishers accepted the invitation, sending three, four or ten titles: Il Barbagianni, Besa, La Compagnia Del Mantello, Errekappa, Fabbrica Dei Segni, Fondazione Gualandi, LO Edizioni (Officina Libreria), Hop!, Carlo Saladino Editore, marinonibooks, Mesogea, Passabao, Pension Lopic, Quinto Quarto, Risma, rueBallu, Timpetill, Tmc The Music, VerbaVolant, Vesepia.

A diverse selection of publishers, from Sicily, Puglia, Emilia-Romagna and cities such as Padua, Pavia, Milan and Rome, most publish illustrated books and, despite their small size, do high-quality work. Their attention is focused on the big names on the international scene (the youngest of the participating publishers, Padua-based Pension Lopic, makes its debut with French fiction; the Apulian publisher Besa acts as a bridge for literature from the other side of the Adriatic with Slovenian writer Peter Svetina, a finalist for the Hans Christian Andersen Award), without forgetting Italian projects and the promotion of young illustrators whose work has not gone unnoticed at the Bologna Children's Book Fair.

The publisher Hopi has published a work by Irene Penazzi, Errekappa one by Alice Piaggio, while Quinto Quarto won the Andersen prize in 2021 with Camilla Pintonatos *Il gallinario*. The illustrators include some selected for the exhibition *Eccellenze italiane. La nuova generazione degli illustratori per ragazzi* (Italian excellence. The new generation of children's illustrators), promoted by the Bologna Children's Book Fair, the Emilia Romagna Regional administration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and curated by the Drosselmeier Academy.

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