



59th BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR
21 - 24 March 2022

56th ILLUSTRATORS EXHIBITION: THE 2022 WINNERS

Record number of submissions for the world's illustration showcase: 3873 illustrators from 92 countries and regions

Bologna Children's Book Fair's longstanding popularity and prestige are even more evident this year with some **3873 illustrators submitting their work for the 56th Illustrators Exhibition** - on display at BolognaFiere **from 21 to 24 March 2022** during the 59th Bologna Children's Book Fair and the 2nd edition of BolognaBookPlus, the initiative dedicated to the entire publishing industry developed by BolognaFiere in partnership with AIE - Italian Publishers Association to extend BCBF's reach to include a wider professional audience.

This year saw the highest number of entries in the history of an Exhibition that every year presents sector professionals with the best of illustration for children and young adults worldwide.

A total of **19,365 illustrations from 92 countries** were entered for selection by an international jury that met in Bologna on 11 and 12 January, choosing **78 sets of illustrations** by as many artists **from 29 countries and regions of the world**.

Exhibited in the heart of BolognaFiere, the original works will be viewable by the professional public attending the Bologna Children's Book Fair, once again confirming the role of the Illustrators Exhibition as a unique showcase - a springboard for emerging talents and an opportunity to see at first hand the work of established artists.

At the same time, the Exhibition will also be viewable online on the **BCBF Galleries** portal of the trade show's website, giving everyone around the world the opportunity to get an overview of illustration today and the emerging trends. The digital dimension the Illustrators Exhibition was obliged to adopt for the last two editions will continue as a good practice for the benefit of our ever-growing audience.

The jury - made up 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, artistic director of Ediciones Ekaré, Venezuela) and **Valerio Vidali** (illustrator and author, Italy) - made its selection with an eye to where illustration is going in terms of narrative technique and image quality. The resultant exhibition covers illustration produced in every corner of the world held together, however, by the common denominator of creativity and great emotional impact.

The Jury members arrived at their final choice by first selecting **318 finalists**. All these artists will be offered a great visibility opportunity as their work will be presented and commented on BCBF's website and social networks.

OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY THE ILLUSTRATORS EXHIBITION

After the Fair, the 78 winning groups of illustrations will embark on a two-year journey around the world to important art museums. The first stop will be Japan with four exhibition venues - Itabashi Art Museum; Nishinomya City Otani Memorial Art Museum; Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum; and Ota City Museum of Art and Library. Then come China and Korea. The illustrations will also be published in the **Illustrators Annual**, the Exhibition catalogue published by **Corraini** whose cover is illustrated, on alternate years, by the winner of the H.C. Andersen Prize or the Grand Prix BIB - Biennial of Illustration Bratislava. This year, the cover is by **Elena Odrionzola**, winner of the Grand Prix of the 2021 Bratislava Biennial, who will also have personal exhibition located at the centre of the Fair.



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Visibility and new professional opportunities are especially available to the younger illustrators. Artists under 35 selected for the Exhibition automatically become candidates for the **International Award for Illustration Award Bologna Children's Book Fair - Fundación SM** consisting of a €15,000 year-long scholarship to create and publish of an illustrated book, whose illustrations will then be exhibited in a personal show at the subsequent edition of the Fair.

In addition, a young artist selected for the Illustrators Exhibition will be chosen to create the **2023 BCBF Visual Identity** together design studio Chialab. The young artist selected in 2021 and the author of the graphic art for the 2022, edition is Mexican illustrator **Sólin Sekkur**.

In conclusion, since 2012 Ars in Fabula - School of Illustration, in partnership with Bologna Children's Book Fair, has offered an **ARS IN FABULA - Grant Award**, which every year gives an unpublished artist under 30 from selected for the Illustrators Exhibition a scholarship to the ARS IN FABULA - Masters in Illustration for Publishing, where he/she will work on a book project assigned by one of the Master's partner publishers.

Read the bios of the Jury members: <https://www.bolognachildrenbookfair.com/en/focus-on/illustrators/the-illustrators-exhibition/jury-2022-illustrators-exhibition/5934.html>

A selection of images of the 2022 winners: <https://www.bolognachildrenbookfair.com/en/focus-on/illustrators/the-illustrators-exhibition/2022-winning-illustrators/10631.html>

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