



Bologna
*Where Your Taste
for Books is Indulged*



BOLOGNA'S SECOND INTERNATIONAL GRAND TOUR

In the run-up to its 60th edition, Bologna Children's Book Fair with BolognaBookPlus and Bologna Licensing Trade Fair/Kids begin a new tour of four global book fairs

The second stop – from 2 to 13 November – will be at the 41st Sharjah International Book Fair, where Italy is Guest of Honour country.

Following the success of the first Bologna Grand Tour of the world's top book fairs in 2021, we've now commenced the second tour. Developed with the support and collaboration of **ITA – The Italian Trade Agency promoting Italian companies abroad and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**, the 2022 Grand Tour aims to strengthen Bologna Fair's global reach, promoting new international publishing opportunities. It also kicks off celebrations to mark the 60th Bologna Children's Book Fair, which, together with its brand extension **BolognaBookPlus (BBPlus)** - for general adult trade publishing, developed in partnership the Italian Publishers' Association (AIE) - and **Bologna Licensing Trade Fair/ Kids**, will be held in Bologna from **6 to 9 March 2023**.

After the start of the Tour in Frankfurt, 19 to 23 October, the second stop is the **41st Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF), 2 to 13 November at the Expo Centre Sharjah**, where **Italy** is this edition's **Guest of Honour Country**. After Sharjah, the Tour will continue on to the **Salon du Livre de Montréal (23 - 27 November)**, and then to the **Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara (26 November - 4 December)**.

This is the second time Bologna Children's Book Fair will be participating in the Sharjah International Book Fair, and comes after the 2022 Bologna Fair welcomed the Arab Emirate as its Guest of Honour. BCBF's booth (**Stand 6L – Hall 5**) will showcase two special exhibitions taking Italian excellence in illustration and publishing for children and young adults to this, one of the world's most international book fairs.

Out of Silence. Yesterday, today, tomorrow, narrating through wordless books brings together a series of extraordinary Italian wordless story books, one of the most dynamic genres in children's publishing. 39 wordless picture books by both internationally renowned artists and Italy's youngest generation of authors and illustrators, show how silent books reach beyond language barriers to children of all ages, allowing them to tell their own stories of what they see, developing creativity and an ability to read the world.

The second exhibition, **A glimpse at Italian illustration. A selection from the Bologna Illustrators Exhibition**, features 20 of the most outstanding Italian artists selected for the Bologna Illustrators Exhibition in recent years, who have gone on to international careers.

The two exhibitions will feature guided tours.

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Events before the official opening of the Sharjah fair include a **networking get-together** at the prestigious **House of Wisdom** library on **31 October at 6 p.m.**, with a guided tour of Sharjah's iconic Library and Digital Cultural Centre.

* **BolognaFiere**

BolognaFiere S.p.A. is a leading exhibition organiser in Europe with over 85 events. A premier world trade show organiser in a range of sectors, including art, publishing, cosmetics, agribusiness, construction and design, BolognaFiere has developed a portfolio of cutting-edge international exhibitions in the major Russian, North American and Asian markets, including China, where it has organised 8 trade shows to date.

* **Bologna Children's Book Fair (BCBF)**

Bologna Children's Book Fair is the world's leading fair of children's publishing and content, attracting 1,500 exhibitors and about 30,000 trade visitors from around 100 countries. BCBF celebrates its 60th edition in 2023. Every year Bologna plays host to a truly unique gathering of publishers, agents, developers, illustrators, authors, booksellers, librarians and allied professionals but also multimedia and children's content licensing specialists.

* **BolognaBookPlus (BBPlus)**

Launched in 2020 by BCBF/BolognaFiere, in partnership with the Italian Publishers' Association (AIE), BolognaBookPlus caters for a general trade publishing audience. Occupying a distinct exhibition area, its wide-ranging programme includes training courses and conferences. BolognaBookPlus Guest Director Jacks Thomas and her UK team work closely with the Bologna team.

* **Bologna Licensing Trade Fair/Kids (BLTF/Kids)**

An integral part of Bologna Children's Book Fair, located at the centre of the Fair, BLTF/Kids hosts major international licensing and entertainment operators presenting over 800 brands on offer, the Licensing Business Lounge, a themed exhibition, the only international conference uniting the whole world of content around licensing topics on products for children and young people, the International Kids Licensing Days, and one of the most important awards for the industry, the Bologna Licensing Awards.

Milan, October 28, 2022

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