



BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR, 53RD EDITION

JUAN PALOMINO FROM MEXICO WINS THE INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR ILLUSTRATION 2016

Juan Palomino won the 8th International Prize for Illustration Children's Book Fair – Fundación SM 2016, today in Bologna. The illustrators to have reached the final shortlist at the Illustrators' Exhibition at the Bologna Children's Book Fair were selected from a total of **3191 candidates from 61 countries with 15955 works, a competition record** in terms of participation in this prestigious event, which has been won by the young Mexican artist.

The prize was established with the aim of **encouraging and nurturing new talent, while showcasing new work to a professional audience**. The competition was established in 2009 and aimed specifically at young illustrators aged under 35 that had been selected for the Children's Book Fair Exhibition.

This important prize comes with a cheque for 30 thousand dollars in order to guarantee the winner the security to create, over the following year, an illustrated book to be published and launched onto the global market by the Spanish publisher SM, previewing at the following edition of the Children's Book Fair, which will also include a personal exhibition of the works of the winner.

The jury of experts responsible for choosing the winner was composed of Chiara Carrer (Italy), Leonard Marcus (USA) and Alfonso Ruano (Spain). Commenting on their choice they explained, *"inspired by Mesoamerican mythology, the artist introduces an ancestral world through the power of images that transcend any stereotype and show us the rituality of our origins as living beings in harmony with nature. The members of the jury particularly appreciated the essential nature and the suppleness of the shapes that the artist proposed, characterized by lines and material surfaces that recall ancient rock paintings. The jury decided to award the prize to Juan Palomino (Mexico) both as an acknowledgement of the artist's current work and also of his potential for development in the future"*.

Following the conclusion of the Children's Book Fair, the Illustrators' Exhibition will undertake a **long tour** of five art museums in **Japan** and six national libraries in **China**, beginning in Beijing. The tour will terminate in Columbia College in Chicago in the **Unites States**. This extraordinary collection will showcase the very best illustration selected in Bologna to cultural centres around the world.

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