



58th BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR
14 - 17 June 2021 - online
THE SYMBIOTIC NETWORK OF CHILDREN'S CONTENT

10 international illustration exhibitions on the BCBF platform

The 2021 Bologna Children's Book Fair, scheduled online from **14 to 17 June** will once again offer a truly broad overview of international illustration. The BCBF Galleries platform - the virtual art gallery created last year for the first online fair - will be hosting no less than **ten exhibitions**: the 55th **Illustrators Exhibition**; the solo show of the Swiss illustrator **Albertine**, winner of the H.C. Andersen 2020 Award and author of the cover of the Illustrators Annual; the international book and illustration exhibition on artists who have made **Dante's** life and works accessible to children; **Jackets Off!** an exhibition dedicated to book covers curated by BolognaBookPlus - BCBF's brand new section embracing the entire publishing industry; the new exhibition in the **Italian Excellence** series; the first three editions of **The Children-Spectators**; the exhibition on BCBF's 2021 visual identity created under the guidance of Chialab by **Jean Mallard** (selected for the 2020 Illustrators Exhibition and already winner of the ARS IN FABULA scholarship in 2018); the solo exhibition of **Sarah Mazzetti**, winner of the tenth edition of the International Award for Illustration Bologna Children's Book Fair - Fundación SM.

THE ILLUSTRATORS EXHIBITION

The traditional Illustrators Exhibition returns for its 55th edition. This central feature of the world's premier children's publishing event provides a unique showcase viewed by professionals from all over the world. As such, it is a springboard for emerging talents and further acknowledgement for established artists. **76 sets of illustrations by 77 illustrators from 23 countries** were selected this year by the international jury from a total of **3235 candidates from 68 different nationalities**. Instead of the usual vast stretch of tables – usually over 450! – displaying the artwork entries at the Bologna fair, this year the jury did the selection online. Indeed, this new digital dimension has enormously extended the Exhibition's audience, allowing a wide public of illustration enthusiasts from all over the world to 'visit' the BCBF Galleries.

This year's selection by the jury - made up of **Beatrice Alemagna** (author and illustrator, Italy/France), **Atak** - Georg Barber (artist, graphic designer and lecturer in illustration, Germany), **Suzanne Carnell** (Editor of Two Hoots, UK), **Kiyoko Matsuoka** (Director of the Itabashi Art Museum, and **Maria Russo** (Editorial Director of mineditionUS, USA) – was charged with an added significance as it picked up on the testimony to a unique phenomenon as artists from the most diverse backgrounds expressed their different responses to the generalised pandemic, producing works that expressed a yearning for freedom from something beyond their control.

After the June Fair, the 76 winning sets of illustrations will embark on a two-year journey to major art museums around the world, starting with Japan, South Korea and China. As usual,



BolognaFiere spa
Viale della Fiera, 20 - 40127 Bologna, Italia
Tel. +39 051 282 111 - Fax +39 051 6374004
segreteria.generale@bolognafiere.it
PEC bolognafiere@pec.bolognafiere.it
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the artworks are collected in the **Illustrators Annual**, the catalogue published by **Corraini** whose cover this year is by **Albertine** (Switzerland), who, as the winner of the 2020 H.C. Andersen Award, also has a solo exhibition on show at the BCBF Galleries.

DISCOVERING DANTE THROUGH PICTURES

To mark the Dante anniversary celebrations, the **Department of Culture of the Municipality of Ravenna - Classense Library** and **BCBF – BolognaFiere** have organised the exhibition *Discovering Dante Through Pictures*, **conceived and curated by Accademia Drosselmeier - Cooperativa Stoppani**. Viewable on the online BCBF Galleries platform from the start of the 58th edition of the Fair on **14 June**, the Exhibition will then be staged physically at the Classense Library after the summer before it too starts a tour taking it to many other venues in Italy and abroad. The world's leading children's publishing event is taking an active part in Italy's Dante celebrations, doing so in keeping with its own particular perspective. Dante's works have been the subject of an enormous body of visual art, from illuminated manuscripts to printed books, painting, cinema and comics. Numerous authoritative professionals note how their first approach to **The Divine Comedy** was through illustrations. The BCBF Exhibition looks at books that make Dante's works approachable to children. This in turn clearly shows how children's publishing is fully aware of its import role in safeguarding our cultural heritage and roots by passing them on to the young generation.

For even if today we have innumerable illustrations of Dante's Inferno, its sinners, strange animals, darkness and fear, alongside peaceful images of Paradise that encourage young readers to look up into the heavens, this was not always the case. The first abridged versions of *The Divine Comedy* appeared in Italy only in 1921 to mark the 600th anniversary of the poet's death. It was only at the turn of the new millennium that the shelves of children's books began to include works inspired by Dante, as major children's authors like Roberto Piumini, Angela Nanetti, Beatrice Masini and Luigi Garlando decided to give the world their own personal interpretation of his work. The exhibition will include a gallery of past and contemporary authors and great illustrators of works on Dante ranging from children's books to cartoons, including the famous Disney school of artists.

Together they offer a wealth of techniques and atmospheres in a colourful kaleidoscope of one of the most important journeys in the history of literature.

Illustrators include: William Blake, Gustave Doré, Walter Crane, Carlo Salodini, Roberto Innocenti, Altan, Satoshi Kitamura, Desideria Guicciardini, Beatrice Tinarelli, Luca Novelli, Michael Bardeggia, Giuseppe Palumbo, Marco Somà, Matteo Berton, Marino Neri, Manuela Trimboli, Seymour Chwast, Lorenzo Mattotti, Milton Glaser, Moebius, Tommaso Levente Tani, Marcello [Toninelli], Angelo Bioletto, Giulio Chierchini, Giada Perissinotto – Andrea Cagol, and Alessandro Sanna.

THE CHILDREN SPECTATORS

New works from all over the world make up the third year of the Exhibition "The Children-Spectators". 35 works have been selected, created by illustrators from 20 countries and regions of the world. The Children-Spectators is an initiative promoted by BolognaFiere/Bologna Children's Book Fair and La Baracca - Testoni Ragazzi children's theatre within the European project "Mapping. A map on the aesthetics of performing arts for early years", supported by the European Commission's Creative Europe programme.



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The works of 584 artists from 61 countries and regions of the world entered for this third international call were examined by the jury of experts: Roberto Frabetti (La Baracca-Testoni Ragazzi), Giorgia Grilli (University of Bologna), Giulia Orecchia (illustrator) and Maurizio Quarello (illustrator, Academy of Macerata). The exhibition is already online at the BCBF Galleries.

This third edition now joins the previous two already on the portal, making available the whole research project. The project will conclude in 2023 with "The Map, the Exhibition", a selection of the illustrations exhibited in the four previous years together with those of the four outstanding international artists who are working on the theme: Katsumi Komagata from Japan, Manuel Marsol from Spain, Fabian Negrin from Italy and Klaas Verplancke from Belgium.

BCBF VISUAL IDENTITY

In 2017, Bologna Children's Book Fair decided for the first time to entrust – under the guidance of design firm Studio Chialab - the visual universe of the next Bologna Children's Book Fair to a young artist chosen from among the young talents selected for the Illustrators Exhibition. This was the start of the co-design "BCBF visual identity workshop", now in its fifth edition. This year the illustrator chosen was **Jean Mallard** (Paris, 1997), selected for the 2020 Illustrators Exhibition and already winner of the ARS IN FABULA scholarship in 2018. The visual identity boards the workshop produced are the subject of an exhibition held at the Fair - whose 2020 and 2021 are editions showcased online at BCBF Galleries.

SOLO EXHIBITION OF SARAH MAZZETTI

Sarah Mazzetti is the winner of the 10th International Award for Illustration Bologna Children's Book Fair - Fundación SM. Open to artists under 35 years selected for the Illustrators Exhibition, the prize consists of a \$15,000 grant enabling the winner to create and publish an illustrated picturebook over the course of a year and whose final illustrations are then exhibited in a solo show at the next edition of the fair. The 2021 edition will be online in BCBF Galleries section. Selected by a jury of international experts (**Beatrice Alemagna**, author and illustrator, Italy/France; **Klaas Verplancke**, author and illustrator of more than 150 books, Belgium; and **Gabriel Brandariz**, director of the Children's Literature Department of SM España, Spain), Sarah Mazzetti has created a personal and highly original reinterpretation of the story Thumbelina. Her picturebook *Lucilla* looks at poverty, portrayed as a character making people have evil thoughts and do evil things. The only way to overcome this is to leave behind a poisonous situation for human relationships in touching poetic finale.

ITALIAN EXCELLENCE.

Organised by Bologna Children's Book Fair/BolognaFiere, the Emilia-Romagna Region, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and curated by the Giannino Stoppani Cooperative/Academia Drosselmeier, the Exhibition **Italian Excellence. The New Generation of Italian Children's Illustrators** presents the works of twenty young Italian illustrators, chosen from among the country's most promising talents: **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 Sangió, Francesca Sanna, Luca Tagliafico, Giulia Tomai, and Veronica Truttero**. Each artist is represented by four illustrations made using a range of manual, digital or mixed techniques.



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Together, the different techniques combine with a visual poetic revealing a new and refreshing take on a broad range of subjects, from the classics to fairy tales and Dante. Following the worldwide success of the two previous editions ("Illustration for Children: Italian Excellence" and "Illustrators for Gianni Rodari: Italian Excellence"), presented in over thirty countries, we continue to promote Italian children's illustration around the world.

JACKETS OFF!

BolognaBookPlus - BCBF's new initiative to reach beyond children's publishing and embrace the entire publishing industry - in partnership with **Mimaster Illustrazione**, presents **Jackets Off!**, an online exhibition of 75 best international book covers. The 'journey' taken in the creation of every jacket is described, from the initial sketches through all the versions made on the way. The 5-person expert jury selecting the works of illustrators and designers under 35 was made up of: **Steven Heller**, art director, critic, author, and editor (USA); **Cecilia Flegenhaimer**, art director Mondadori (Italy); **Jon Gray**, graphic designer (UK); Alice **Beniero**, illustrator and art director (Italy); **Paul Buckley**, senior VP Executive Creative Director Penguin Random House (USA). The exhibition offers an overview of international jacket design excellence that pays special attention to the requirements of both physical and digital contexts.

ALBERTINE'S SOLO EXHIBITION

Each year the Illustrators Annual publishes the illustrations of the artists selected for the Illustrators Exhibition. The 2021 Annual will therefore include the 76 works (one of which a joint effort) of the 77 artists chosen from among the candidates for the 55th edition of the Exhibition. The cover is designed alternately by the winner of the H.C. Andersen Award and the Grand Prix BIB - Biennial of Illustration Bratislava, being among the most important international art awards in the children's book world. The artist of that year also has a solo exhibition dedicated to him/her during the Book Fair. This year, of course, it will be hosted on the BCBF online platform in the Galleries section. 2021 is the turn of Swiss illustrator Albertine, winner of the H.C. Andersen Prize 2020. Born in 1967 in Dardagny, Albertine draws for the press, makes posters and objects. She also works with animated film and theatre, and taught screen printing and illustration for seventeen years at HEAD in Geneva, before deciding to devote herself entirely to her work. Some of her numerous publications for both children and adults were created together with author Germano Zullo. Their books have won many awards including the New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Book Award in 2012, and the BolognaRagazzi Fiction Award in 2016.



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