



**Bologna**  
*Where Your Taste  
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## THE 60<sup>th</sup> BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR BOLOGNARAGAZZI AWARD, 56<sup>th</sup> edition The winners and special mentions at the 2023 edition

With 2349 titles from 59 countries and regions around the world, the award continues to grow this year at the 60<sup>th</sup> edition of the Children's Book Fair.

The night, the word, bodies, not to mention new aesthetics and representations: the 2023 entries tell stories about the search for new possibilities and the need to redefine the world.

### IN NUMBERS

A total of 2349 titles were submitted by 644 publishers from 59 countries and regions around the world. The figures for the 2023 BolognaRagazzi Award (BRAW) confirm an increase in the number of entries again this year, with books from Bangladesh, Cyprus, Macedonia, Malaysia, Puerto Rico and Venezuela arriving on the juries' tables for the first time.

### THE AWARD

Since 1966, the BolognaRagazzi Award has been showcasing the **best books for children and young adults published around the world**, acknowledging in particular the quality of their graphic-editorial design, innovation and balance, along with their ability to create a dialogue with young readers. Thanks to the prestige it has acquired over the years and the interest it is able to catalyze from the professional community worldwide, the BolognaRagazzi Award represents not only an important publishing accolade, but also a unique business opportunity in the international rights market as well as a useful tool for anticipating and highlighting the new themes and publishing trends that will be central at the fair and its international manifestations.

Divided into categories, **Fiction**, **Non-Fiction**, **Opera Prima** (reserved for first-time authors), **Comics** and the special category dedicated this year to **Photography** (a tribute to the strong documentary power of this expressive medium as well as the infinite artistic possibilities it offers), this year's edition of the award has seen a particular increase in the number of entries for Fiction, Comics and Opera Prima.

Completing the BRAW line up is **New Horizons**, a special prize that the jury awards to a work that stands out for the innovativeness of its publishing product.

### THE TRENDS

Among the latest trends of 2023 is the theme of the **"nocturnal"**: the night has burst into narratives for young children all over the world, emerging as a place of imagination, an elsewhere in which dreaming and the unconscious open up to fun and possibilities. The night also manifests itself through stories that give space to darker and more painful emotions, from loneliness to friendships that break down, which too have become a subject for literary exploration. Other new innovations come from the focus on the **word**: from first alphabet books to fiction and non-fiction books, titles from every country are comparing languages, telling their stories and teaching how to "name" them, giving expression to a **need to rename the world** that is symptomatic of the need to redefine it. At the other end of the spectrum are **wordless books**: the exponential growth of these in recent years sees them now equated with "written" books, highlighting a change in

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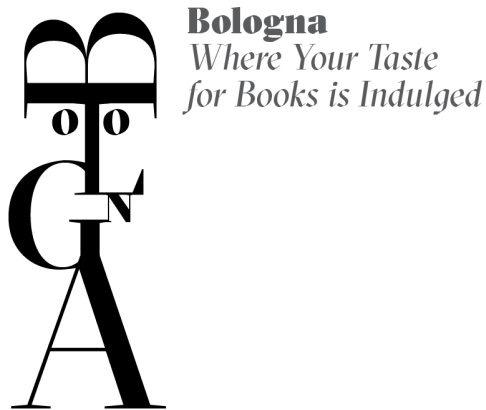
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sensibility that has taken place in the public's taste and perception, a synesthetic sensibility now capable of accommodating significant variety in forms of publishing products that until recently would have been hard to imagine.

Alongside these, the more than 2,300 entries submitted for the BolognaRagazzi Award confirm the growth and **development of many of the trends that have emerged during the last few years' editions**, with mature contributions that make use of very different languages. A common feature of many of the proposals received is a notable presence of fluorescent colors and a freer representation of the body that no longer conforms to traditional canons: a process of liberation that highlights a **new, authentic and unfiltered "body truth"**. Another area in expansion and offering new insights is that of **non-fiction for children and young people**, which has already featured in recent editions of the award and now sees mature entries enriching scientific content with pioneering research and attention to aesthetic aspects. In particular, the discourse concerning the **environment** also continues to develop, breaking free from purely educational approaches to interpret the topic through a broader "cosmic belonging" of childhood that always relates back to the surrounding world.

The entries for the **comics** category in particular featured a desire to redefine the relationship between children and loneliness, addressed in a style that is often delicate and minimalist and that, in difference to realistic representations, becomes a space for fantastical and intimate exploration filled with possibilities.

## THE JURIES

The juries, as always, are composed of international experts from the sector, who came together in Bologna for an intense two days during which they scrutinized the entries and identified the trends at this edition.

For the categories Fiction, Non-Fiction, Opera Prima and for the New Horizons award, this year reading, discussing and evaluating the hundreds of books were: **Doris Breitmoser** (Germany); **Riccardo Falcinelli** (Italy); **Orna Granot** (Israel); and **Dee Lalljee** (United Kingdom).

The profiles of each of the jury members can be found at:

<https://www.bolognachildrensbookfair.com/en/awards/bolognaragazzi-award/2023-braw-jury/8387.html>

For the Comics category: **Roel Daenen** (Belgium); **Igort** (pseudonym of Igor Tuveri, Italy); **Bill Kartalopoulos** (USA).

The personal profiles of the jury members can be found here:

<https://www.bolognachildrensbookfair.com/en/awards/bolognaragazzi-award/2023-braw-comics-jury/9941.html>

For the Photography category: **Walter Guadagnini** (Italy); **Laurence Le Guen** (France); **Junko Yokota** (Japan).

The personal profiles of the jury members can be found here:

<https://www.bolognachildrensbookfair.com/en/awards/bolognaragazzi-award/2023-braw-photography-jury/9940.html>

## THE BRAW AMAZING BOOKSHELF EXHIBITION

This year too, in addition to the customary showcase for the winners and special mentions, the Fair will welcome back the **The BRAW Amazing Bookshelf**. The initiative aims to offer visibility to some of the most impressive publishing releases from all over the world, a selection of more than 100 entries will be on display for the public and professionals to leaf through, read and discover, generating new inspiration and business opportunities.





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the jury's motivations at this link: <https://www.bolognachildrenbookfair.com/en/awards/bolognaragazzi-award/bolognaragazzi-award-all-the-2022-winners/10903.html>

The winners and special mentions are:

## **FICTION**

### **Winner**

Title: **Todo lo que pasó antes de que llegaras (Everything That Happened Before You Arrived)**

Text and illustrations by: Yael Frankel

Publisher: Limonero, 2022

Country: Argentina

### **Special Mentions**

Title: **噹噹噹 (Thump! Thump! Thump!)**

Text by: Yu Yi

Illustrations by: Wang Zumin

Publisher: 21st Century Publishing Group, 2021

Country: China

Title: **Spinne spielt Klavier (Spider Plays Piano)**

Text and illustrations by: Benjamin Gottwald

Publisher: Carlsen Verlag GmbH, 2022

Country: Germany

Title: **이사가 (Moving Away)**

Text and illustrations by: Ji Yeon Lee

Publisher: NCSOFT Corporation, 2022

Country: South Korea

## **NON-FICTION**

### **Winner**

Title: **Art of Protest**

Text by: De Nichols

Illustrations by: Diana Dagadita, Saddo, Olivia Twist, Molly Mendoza, Diego Becas

Publisher: Big Picture Press (Bonnier Books UK), 2021

Country: United Kingdom

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## Special Mentions

Title: **Woven of the World**

Text by: Katey Howes

Illustrations by: Dinara Mirtalipova

Publisher: Chronicle Books, 2022

Country: USA

Title: **Ogledalo bez mana (The Flawless Mirror)**

Text and illustrations by: Agata Lučić

Publisher: Mala zvona d.o.o., 2022

Country: Croatia

## OPERA PRIMA

### Winner

Title: **Mariedl. Une histoire gigantesque (Mariedl. A Gigantic Story)**

Text and illustrations by: Laura Simonati

Publisher: Versant Sud, 2022

Country: Belgium

## Special Mentions

Title: **The Blue: Bench**

Text and illustrations by: mia

Publisher: Studio Woom, 2022

Country: South Korea

## COMICS

### Winner Early Reader

Title: **Whose Sock?**

Text and illustrations by: Sun Jun

Publisher: Hsin Yi Publications, 2020

Country: China

### Special Mentions Early Reader

Title: **Après les vagues (After the Waves)**

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Text and illustrations by: Sandrine Kao  
Publisher: Grasset Jeunesse, 2022  
Country: France

Title: **O primeiro dia (The First Day)**  
Text and illustrations by: Henrique Coser Moreira  
Publisher: Planeta Tangerina, 2022  
Country: Portugal

#### Winner Middle Grade

Title: **Un matin (One Morning)**  
Text by: Jérôme Dubois  
Illustrations by: Laurie Agusti  
Publisher: La Partie, 2022  
Country: France

#### Special Mentions Middle Grade

Title: **그림자 극장 (The Shadow Theater)**  
Text and illustrations by: Kyu-Ah Kim  
Publisher: Bear Books Inc., 2022  
Country: South Korea

Title: **House of Dracula**  
Text by: Sunday  
Illustrations by: Heedae Yun  
Publisher: Dogbooks, 2022  
Country: South Korea

Title: **Le monde des animaux perdus (The World of the Lost Animals)**  
Text and illustrations by: Noémie Weber  
Publisher: Gallimard Jeunesse, 2022  
Country: France

#### Winner Young Adult

Title: **さかな作品集 プラネタリウム・ゴースト・トラベル  
(Planetarium Ghost Travel The Art of Sakatsuki Sakana)**

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Text and illustrations by: Sakana Sakatsuki  
Publisher: PIE International Inc., 2021  
Country: Japan

### Special Mentions Young Adult

Title: **Aujourd'hui (Today)**

Text and illustrations by: Loïc Froissart  
Publisher: L'Articho, 2021  
Country: France

Title: **Avant l'oubli**

Text and illustrations by: Lisa Blumen  
Publisher: L'employé du moi, 2021  
Country: Belgium

Title: **Night Night**

Text and illustrations by: Chivas Leung  
Publisher: Studio MARY, 2022  
Country: Hong Kong, China

### PHOTOGRAPHY

#### Winner

Title: **Seen and Unseen**

Text by: Elizabeth Partridge  
Images by: Lauren Tamaki  
Publisher: Chronicle Books, 2022  
Country: USA

#### Special Mentions

Title: **Qui veut jouer avec moi? (Who Wants to Play with Me?)**

Text and images by: Claire Dé  
Publisher: Éditions des Grandes Personnes, 2022  
Country: France

Title: **Cache-cache cauchemars**

Text and images by: Jean Lecointre

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Publisher: Éditions Thierry Magnier, 2018  
Country: France

Title: **O adeus do marujo (The Sailor's Goodbye)**

Text and images by: Flávia Bomfim

Publisher: Pallas Editora, 2022

Country: Brazil

### NEW HORIZONS

Title: **El bolso (The Purse)**

Text by: María José Ferrada

Illustrations by: Ana Palmero Cáceres

Publisher: Alboroto Ediciones, 2021

Country: Mexico

Milan, 26 January 2023

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#### \* About Bologna

Three global book events for international rights and licensing trading takes place annually in the eponymous Italian city where culture meets style and commercial relationships are created.

#### \* 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.

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**\* 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 600 brands. Facilities available include a Licensing Retail Lounge, a Fashion Product Showcase, and area where licensees can present their retail projects.

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