



ZIG ZAG FESTIVAL

A VISUAL BRIDGE
BETWEEN ITALY
AND THE US

NEW YORK
JUNE 8-12,
2026



Some of the best Italian and American illustrators gather in New York for a visual dialog that spans and unites both sides of the Atlantic. Five days of talks, round tables, and exhibitions celebrating the creative relationship between Italy and the US, featuring **Mac Barnett, Nicholas Blechman, Marianna Coppo, Emiliano Ponzi, Felicity Sala and Olimpia Zagnoli.**

A project by *BolognaFiere, Hamelin, Steven Guarnaccia*
with the collaboration and support of



Partners
*Society of Illustrators,
Rizzoli Bookstore, Salotto,
Sullaluna Bookshop & Bistrot,
SVA - School of Visual Art*

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Images travel. Stories change shape. Ideas cross borders. From Italy to the United States and back, illustration has always moved freely—carrying influences, voices, and visions across time and place. The ZIG ZAG FESTIVAL celebrates this continuous exchange through the work of artists who live between cultures and languages.

PROGRAM

MONDAY, JUNE 8

Italian Cultural Institute
6:00 PM

Zig Zag Festival launch with all participants and opening of the exhibition **250 Years of Friendship:**

A Visual Bridge Between Italy and the USA

A conversation marking 250 years of friendship between Italy and the United States, told through the work of Italians—Felicita Sala, Emiliano Ponzi, Riccardo Vecchio—and American—Mac Barnett, Maria Russo. Sharing images with personal resonance, they explore the ongoing cultural exchange between the two countries.

Introduced by Steven Guarnaccia
Followed by a cocktail reception

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

Society of Illustrators
6:00 PM

Zig Zag: Illustrators Back and Forth Between Europe and the US

with Debbie Bibo (Debbie Bibo Agency), Kirsten Hall (Catbird Agency), Felicita Sala
Moderated by Steven Guarnaccia

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

Rizzoli Bookstore
6:00 PM

Make-Believe: Visual Storytelling in Picture Books

with Felicita Sala and Mac Barnett
Moderated by Ilaria Tontardini (Hamelin)



THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Salotto
6:00 PM

Beyond the Page: Other Forms of Illustration

with Olimpia Zagnoli and Emiliano Ponzi
Moderated by Nicholas Blechman
(*The New Yorker*)
Introduction by Emilio Varrà (Hamelin)

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Sullaluna Bookshop & Bistrot
5:30 PM

Lavinia's wondrous portraits

with Emanuele Lugli
Moderated by Ilaria Tontardini

6:30 PM

Pictures with Wings

Zig Zag Festival closing with Marianna Coppo and Cecilia Ruiz
Moderated by Steven Guarnaccia