

**BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR, 53RD EDITION
FROM 4TH - 7TH APRIL**

ALL THE ILLUSTRATION EXHIBITIONS

**The ILLUSTRATOR'S EXHIBITION sets a new record with 15955 works from 61 countries
Fifty years of the best of the world's illustration at BolognaFiere**

The jewel in the crown of the Children's Book Fair, the **Illustrator's Exhibition** this year too will be showcasing the latest in innovation with the works of 77 artists chosen by a prestigious international jury that has met in Bologna to evaluate and discuss the works of **3191 illustrators from 61 countries, with 15955 pieces of work, a record number of participants in the history of the competition.** The jury will include illustrators **Sergio Ruzzier** (New York), **Taro Miura** (Tokyo) and **Nathan Fox**, also a teacher at the School of Visual Arts in New York, and publishers **Francine Bouchet** of *La joie de lire* (Switzerland) and **Klaus Humann** of the German *Aladin Verlag*.

Selection for the Exhibition in Bologna offers illustrators significant visibility because after the fair this extraordinary collection undertakes a **long tour** that passes through cultural hubs in different countries such as Japan, where the exhibition will go on display in five art museums, in **China** in six national libraries (first of all in Beijing), then in the **United States** at Columbia College University in Chicago.

Accompanying the exhibition will be the **Illustrators' Annual, prized publication that examines the latest developments in children' illustration.** The book is edited in Italian and in English by Corraini Edizioni, which will also manage the distribution of the book in specialized international bookshops, in Japanese by JBBY – Japanese Board on Books for Young People; in the United States by Chronicle Books, while publication in China is expected to take place in May. The illustration on the cover this year is by the young and award-winning English illustrator **Laura Carlin**, winner of the 2015 Grand Prix of the Biennale of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) and to whose work will be dedicated a **personal exhibition** at the fair, "*Il Principe Felice*" [*The Happy Prince*"].

Also the British illustrator, **Maisie Shearring, winner of the International Prize for Illustration Bologna Children's Book Fair – Fundación SM**, will see her work feature in a **personal exhibition.**

The 2016 edition will celebrate the **50th anniversary of the Illustrators' Exhibition** – a unique event and unmissable date in the international panorama and BolognaFiere is set to celebrate this occasion with a unique event involving the exhibition of original works by **50 of the world's greatest illustrators** who either made their debuts, or have participated in the exhibition in the past, artists that have made the **history of illustration.** "**Artists and Masterpieces of Illustration -50 Illustrators' Exhibitions 1967-2016**" is the title of the exhibition and it will also be the title of **the book that will trace the history of the Illustrators' Exhibition**, which has represented the heart of the Bologna Children's Book Fair ever since 1967.

The exhibition will include works by artists that have contributed to the history of illustration, from **Altan to Munari, from Innocenti to Quentin Blake, from Luzzati to Shaun Tan, the very best illustrations from around the world that have featured at the heart of the Fair.**

The Exhibition is curated by **Paolo Vassalli** (expert illustrator who planned and directed the Educational Art workshop services at the *Palazzo delle Esposizioni* and the *Scuderie del Quirinale* in Rome) along with the book that will accompany the exhibition (Corraini Publishing), both are **divided into decades**, with in-depth historical and critical analysis from a number of different authors including the curator, the Swiss illustrator and one of the leading pioneers of the modern illustrated book **Etienne Delessert**, historian and children's book critic **Leonard Marcus and Kiyoko Matsuoka**, curator of the Itbashi Art Museum, which for over thirty years has taken the Illustrator's Exhibition on tour around Japan. . This fiftieth anniversary takes place after the Bologna Children's Book Fair celebrated its own 50th birthday in 2013, while Arte Fiera commemorated its 40th edition in recent days in Bologna, attracting a remarkable 60 thousand visitors. This enormous success underlined BolognaFiere's experience in the organization of international cultural events and its deep commitment to art, from the contemporary art of Arte Fiera to the illustrations at BCBF.

Completing the picture of the illustration exhibitions at this year's Bologna Children's Book Fair are a further two initiatives:

“Illustration for children, Italian excellence”: following its success in Madrid, the exhibition created by the Italian Institute of Culture in Madrid together with BolognaFiere will exhibit original works by **leading Italian illustrators for children**: Beatrice Alemagna, Anna and Elena Balusso, Chiara Carrer, Mara Cerri, Sara Fanelli, Philip Giordano, Roberto Innocenti, Federico Maggioni, Giovanni Manna, Lorenzo Mattotti, Simona Mulazzani, Simone Rea, Sergio Ruzzier, Arianna Vairo, Alessandro Sanna, Guido Scarabottolo, Pia Valentini, Olimpia Zagnoli. After Bologna, the exhibition will head to **Berlin** and **Sofia**.

LOOK!: proposed by **Germany, the country guest of honour** at BCBF 2016, the programme includes **a large exhibition of original works by 30 excellent illustrators**, not all of whom are well-known on an international level, and **a selection of books by 55 famous artists** published in all of the world. The exhibitions have been created by the **Frankfurt Book Fair** (Frankfurter Buchmesse) and the **Goethe-Institut** in Italy.