

THE ILLUSTRATORS EXHIBITION

**Over 15000 works of art examined by a prestigious international jury
and a selection of 80 illustrators from all over the world for the exhibition
at the centre of the Bologna Children's Book Fair**

The personal exhibitions of Ludwig Volbeda and Manuel Marsol

THE ILLUSTRATORS' EXHIBITION

3.053 illustrators from 72 countries and a total of 15.265 works, viewed by a jury comprised of five international experts from the world of illustration and children's publishing. **77 selected works from 25 countries and regions**: these are the figures of the 2018 **Illustrators Exhibition**, staged at the BolognaFiere Service Centre.

Over time, the Illustrators Exhibition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair has grown into a unique venue in which stories, cultures, styles and traditions from every part of the world come together, united by the ambition to narrate our present times and anticipate future trends in illustration for children and young adults. In the past fifty years the exhibition has been consolidating its role as an international showcase opportunity for the latest trends in children's illustration, a networking platform for established artists and debut illustrators and an eagerly awaited event for all professionals of the publishing industry.

William Grill, British illustrator, second youngest winner of the Kate Greenaway Award in 2014 and winner of the Bologna Ragazzi Award for Non-Fiction in 2017; **Allyn Johnston**, publisher and vice-president of the Californian publisher Beach Lane Books; **Anastasia Arkhipova**, a teacher at the Stroganov Academy of Fine Arts in Moscow and a multi-award winning Russian illustrator, **Peggy Espinosa**, editor, publisher and illustrator for the Mexican publishing house Petra Ediciones; and **Bernd Mölck-Tassel**, German illustrator and teacher at the University of Applied Science in Hamburg (HAW), are the members of the prestigious international jury who met in January 2018 to select the artists for the exhibition.

Following the extraordinary success of last year's edition, the Exhibition confirms its **unconventional display format**: the illustrations are placed on tables and visitors have the opportunity to walk around them, observing the works from the same perspective as the members of the jury. After Bologna the Illustrators Exhibition will start a two-year **world tour. Japan and China will be the first two destinations.**

But the exhibition offers many other opportunities: The **Illustrators Annual**, published by Corraini Edizioni and produced with the collaboration of Fedrigoni is distributed worldwide in Italian and English, Japanese, Chinese and American versions. The cover of the 2018 catalogue is illustrated by Ludwig Volbeda, Dutch winner of the Bratislava Biennial Grand Prix in 2017 and protagonist of a personal exhibition at the service centre this year.

THE EXHIBITIONS OF LUDWIG VOLBEDA AND MANUEL MARSOL

Alongside the Illustrators Exhibition, two artists will have personal exhibitions staged at the Service Centre: **Manuel Marsol**, winner of the Bologna Children's Book Fair – Fundación SM International Illustration Award 2017 and **Ludwig Volbeda**, winner of the Grand Prix at the Bratislava Biennial 2017 and author of the 2018 Illustrators Annual cover.

MANUEL MARSOL

The original illustrations from **Manuel Marsol's "La leyenda de Don Martín"** are inspired by traditional Spanish legends. The book tells the tale of the mysterious disappearance of Don Martín, a medieval knight who went on a horse ride one day and never returned again. The many possible explanations of his disappearance led to a legend that was handed down through the centuries.

Manuel Marsol (born 1984 in Madrid), graduated in Audio-visual and Advertising Communication. He worked as an advertising creative from 2009 to 2012, before choosing to focus on what he truly enjoyed: drawing. In Barcelona he specialized in children's illustration at the EINA. Since 2014 his works have been selected every year for the Illustrators Exhibition.

Marsol has illustrated numerous books such as: Franz Kafka's "La metamorphosis" (Astro Rey, 2015); Arthur Conan Doyle's "El gato de Brasil" (Ekaré, 2016) and "La Venus de las Pielas" by Leopold von Sacher-Masoch (Sexto Piso, 2016). His most recent book, published in Portugal with the title "A Minha Cidade: Madrid" (Pato Lógico, 2017), is an illustrated map of his hometown. In 2017 he taught at One Year Illustration course organised by the European Design Institute in Madrid. In 2014 he won the fifth edition of the Catalogo Iberoamericano.

LUDWIG VOLBEDA

Among the 2018 protagonists is the Dutch illustrator **Ludwig Volbeda**, winner of the **Grand Prix at the Bratislava Biennial 2017**. Keeping up with the traditional invitation to the winners of leading children's illustration international awards, Volbeda was asked to create the cover for this years' Illustrators' Annual, the catalogue of the Illustrators' Exhibition. Volbeda's personal exhibition reveals his extraordinary talent, with 16 works of art on display including brand new illustrations specifically created for the exhibition.

Ludwig Volbeda studied illustration at the Sint Joost Academy of Art in Breda. He loves to fill every single inch of his walls and his notebooks with tiny scribbles, drawings, sketches and cartoons. He enjoys exploring every variety of narrative technique and tries to start each project or book with a completely new approach. He playfully inserts hidden codes and mini-scripts into his complex and accurately detailed illustrations.

His main sources of inspiration are literature and history as well as landscapes, photography, poetry, daily life conversations and, last, comic strips – which he uses as an aesthetic testing ground for the framing and the rhythm of sequential images.

In 2016 Volbeda published his first illustrated children's book *Hoe Tortot zijn vissenhart verloo*, which tells an absurd story about war and is filled with drawings that change format throughout the book, ranging from cartoon-like panels to fake musical scores. He won the Grand Prix at the Bratislava Biennial 2017, with *De Vogels*, his second illustrated children's book – his first in colour – which was published as the catalogue of a twentieth century sculpture exhibition.