

**CULTIVATING A YOUTHFUL HUMANISM
THE EXHIBITION CREATED ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT
OF POPE FRANCIS TO BOLOGNA
200 treasures of children's publishing from all over the world that talk
of equality, rights, freedom, sustainability, love and life**

In a moment in history in which we are beginning to feel the pressing need for a “new humanism”, the visit of Pope Francis to Bologna in October offered the opportunity for **BolognaFiere** and **Bologna Children's Book Fair**, to organise, in collaboration with the **Church of Bologna**, a large exhibition to present these contemporary themes, which the Holy Father so often chooses to discuss, in a way that is accessible to children.

Taking centre stage at the exhibition, on display in the Gallery between Pavilions 21 and 22 (on the first floor), are the 200 illustrated books selected from the Children's Book Fair; all deal with some of nine different themes that concern our present times. From the concept of “happy sobriety” to unity and dialogue, from the subject of work and dignity to respect for the environment, from the current issue of migration to eternal questions about peace and democracy, passing through those themes that are always central to the teachings of the Holy Father, the family, diverse ability and a school and culture that can truly claim to be accessible to all.

The universally recognised uniqueness and solidity of the work of BolognaFiere in the promotion and diffusion of children's culture, from a perspective of abolishing the barriers erected by religious extremism and the short-sightedness of much of today's politics, is reflected in this exhibition also in the diverse provenance of the works on display that originate from Arabic countries, Latin America, India, Korea, China as well as Western countries. At the heart of the work of the scientific committee behind the creation of the initiative, was a vision that is truly multicultural. The committee was composed of Silvia Cocchi, Ferdinando Costa, Anna Fontanta Boni, Grazie Gotti, Don Stefano Ottani, Elena Pasoli and Silvana Sola.

The exhibition is accompanied by a **bilingual catalogue published in English and Italian**. The catalogue traces the bibliography of the books selected, each subdivided according to their theme and accompanied by the words from speeches of Pope Francis and introduced with some comments by leading international figures. Thanks to the collaboration with Giunti Editore the catalogue was not published for commercial purposes and it can be downloaded from the website www.youthful-humanism.it

From **Patricia Aldana**, President of the IBBY Foundation, to the writer **Beatrice Masini**, from **Marwa Al Aqroubi** President of the UAE Board on Books for Young People and one of the standout figures in the sector of children's literature in the United Arab Emirates to the French writer **Pascal Teulade**, from the Argentinian writer and illustrator **Gusti** to the Hans Christian Andersen prize winner **Cao Wenxuan**, from the Spanish illustrator **Iban Barrenetxea** to **Kiyoko Matzuoka**, curator of the Itabashi Art Museum in Tokyo, from **Carlin Petrini** and **Giuseppe Dossetti**, a catholic priest with a history of working with drug addicts and migrants, to **Roberto Piumini**.